

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AUTHORIZING STATUES IN CAPITOL FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND TERRITORIES

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Capitol features statues from every State in our Union—statues that honor some of the most memorable and influential people in America's history. The people of the District of Columbia are part of our Union, as well: they pay federal taxes, vote in presidential elections, and share citizenship with us. But when it comes to seeing the District's most notable citizens honored here in the Capitol, in their own city, the people of Washington, DC have again been left out. That needs to change.

This bill would give the people of the District of Columbia—along with the people of the territories of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands—their due in the U.S. Capitol. I believe, in fact, that the District of Columbia deserves two statues, just like any state; but failing that, I believe that some recognition is better than none.

The people of the District of Columbia have made remarkable contributions to America's history, its culture, and its ongoing work to guarantee equal rights to all—and it's time that those contributions are recognized here in the heart of our democracy. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING BRAD ABORN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Brad Aborn upon his retirement as the Mariposa County Supervisor for District 1.

Mr. Aborn has served on the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors since January 2007. During his time on the Board, Mr. Aborn worked tirelessly to serve Mariposa County. He was involved in a number of County projects, including: the Yosemite West Community Plan, the SilverTip Resort project amended site plan application, the new Human Services facility, acquisition of new fire engines and water tenders, funding for 3 new fire stations, obtaining a Fixed Base Operator to oversee the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport, construction of the Red Cloud Library, improvements for Midpines Park, Airport improvement projects, the Seventh Day Adventist Camp project, fuel load reduction projects, road maintenance projects, Agri-nature and Agri-tourism policy, Williamson Act/historical parcels, and the AB 885 statewide issue re-

garding well and septic system inspections. Mr. Aborn also served as the Board's chair in 2009.

Besides his work on the Board, Mr. Aborn has served the County in a number of other ways. He was the chair of the Local Transportation Commission and the vice president and then president of the Mariposa County Public Financing Corporation.

Mr. Aborn is a dedicated patriot and family man. Before joining the Board, he served in the military for 24 years, first on active duty and then in the reserves. Brad, his wife Irene and their three children now spend their time on the Flying A Ranch, where they breed and raise champion Arabian horses.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brad Aborn for his dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Aborn many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF KAREN LADD

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Karen Ladd for her outstanding contributions to Arkansas students. Karen's efforts in the classroom earned her the highest recognition our Nation's kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics and science teachers may receive for outstanding teaching, the Presidential Awards for Excellence for Mathematics and Science Teaching.

A Chemistry, Advanced Placement Chemistry, and Physics teacher at Nettleton High School, in Jonesboro, Arkansas, Karen exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding educator. Teaching for 33 years, Karen constantly works to challenge her students to succeed, receiving many classroom grants to provide her students with additional resources.

Karen's teaching is held in high regard and her work inspires her colleagues to do their best to encourage further development in the classroom. Her leadership has helped teachers in her region through the Constructing Physics Understanding and Modeling Physics workshops as well as mentoring other teachers. Karen is working to improve science education and help other teachers use innovative methods in the classroom.

I would like to offer my appreciation for the work of Karen Ladd and her determination to provide her students with the best science education as we work to maintain America's global competitiveness in science.

CALPERS DETAILS SEVERAL KEY WAYS THE HEALTH REFORM LAW IS HELPING THEIR MEMBERS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to share a letter written to the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius last week. In this letter, copied below, the CEO for the California Public Employees Retirement System, CalPERS, details several key ways the health reform law is already helping their members.

CalPERS is the largest non-federal purchaser of health benefits in the country outside of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, FEHBP. They highlight expanded coverage for young adults, removal of lifetime limits on benefits, and assistance with the costs of retiree health benefits as three key ways reform is already making a difference.

Republicans refuse to look at the benefits of health reform and are continuing to insist they will "repeal ObamaCare."

President Obama should be proud to have the right wing label health reform with his name. As this CalPERS example shows, health reform is expanding and improving health coverage already. As time moves forward, the benefits to working families, small businesses, and large companies only increase.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, CALPERS,
Sacramento, CA, December 10, 2010.

Hon. Kathleen Sebelius,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SEBELIUS: As the nation's largest non-federal purchaser of health care, the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) has a keen interest in national health care reform. From the beginning, CalPERS supported the reform necessary to contain costs for employers and their employees while maintaining quality health care.

Many health care elements we have championed, such as guaranteed issue policies; eliminating co-pays for preventive services; bans on pre-existing conditions; stabilizing health premiums; supporting innovative delivery system reforms; and patient protection against medical bankruptcies are now major components of health care reform.

We believe that key elements of national health care reform represent a fundamental and positive shift in the way health care will be purchased and delivered in the United States. Together, they will dramatically shape the future of health care in our country and ultimately benefit everyone.

During our recent open enrollment period, CalPERS emphasized the benefits of many health care reform provisions—including extension of dependent coverage, elimination of lifetime limits, and the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program. We are writing to share some of our implementation successes.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

(1) Extension of Dependent Coverage to Age 26

In recognition of young adults' need for health care coverage, CalPERS launched a massive communication effort to educate and inform employers and members of the extended dependent coverage benefit. We developed special enrollment teams, published communication materials, posted information on our website, and issued press releases highlighting this new health care reform provision.

Our efforts successfully resulted in more than 27,000 young adults being added to their parents' health plans effective January 1, 2011. Best of all, adding them to our program resulted in a 2011 health insurance premium increase of less than 1 percent. Families can now rest easier in these uncertain economic times knowing their dependents, regardless of marital status, can be covered up to age 26.

(2) Removal of Lifetime Limits

Most CalPERS health insurance plans have never included lifetime limits on the dollar value of benefits. Further, we proactively monitored our members who were enrolled in the few health plans that did include lifetime limits, so we could work with them to change plans when they approached these limits.

As a result of health care reform, CalPERS has removed lifetime limits from all our plans that had included them, and now our members enjoy more health plan options and less financial risk.

(3) Early Retiree Reinsurance Program (ERRP)

For years, CalPERS health plans have included wellness and disease management programs that promote prevention and manage chronic conditions. These programs, now required of ERRP participants, mitigate the on-going fiscal impact of caring for an older population. It's encouraging that these programs can reduce costs.

Notwithstanding this success, approximately 24 percent of our non-Medicare medical and pharmaceutical costs are associated with early retiree health liability. Recognizing this, the Affordable Care Act included much needed provisions for relief from these costs. CalPERS 2010 health premium rates reflected the lowest increase in 14 years.

In anticipation of the Department of Health and Human Services certifying our ERRP application, CalPERS proactively negotiated 2011 health plan contracts that reduced premium increases by more than 3 percent for our non-Medicare plans. We estimate ERRP will provide premium savings of approximately \$200 million based on reimbursement related to more than 115,000 early retirees and their spouses, surviving spouses, and dependents.

We thank you for expeditiously implementing important health care reform provisions and we are committed to being a collaborative partner in ensuring the smooth and successful implementation in the months and years ahead.

If you have any questions regarding our program, please contact me.

Sincerely,

ANNE STAUSBOLL,
Chief Executive Officer.

REQUIRING REPORTS ON MANAGEMENT OF ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

SPEECH OF

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3860, important legislation to ensure proper oversight of Arlington National Cemetery. I'm proud to have sponsored companion legislation to this bill in the House to see that we fulfill our oversight duties and properly honor our fallen heroes.

Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place for Presidents, Senators, Representatives, Supreme Court Justices, Generals, Admirals and the countless soldiers, known and unknown, who've died in defense of freedom. It is home to memorials for Iowa heroes like the five Sullivan brothers who were lost at sea in 1942 with the sinking of the USS *Juneau*, but who are honored with tombstones among all of their fallen brothers. Arlington National Cemetery is a national institution that symbolizes the service and sacrifice by our citizens that makes the United States great, but most recently, it's been a sign of government incompetence.

The recent scandal of unmarked and inappropriately marked gravesites is an indignity to the Americans memorialized there, but it is also a stain on America. To date, Arlington Cemetery has spent over \$5 million to computerize records to determine who is buried where, with nothing to show for it but continued problems in gravesite identification. The misuse of these funds disrespects our honored dead and is a breach in the trust of the American people.

As the son of a World War II veteran, I have the deepest respect for our Nation's veterans and I want nothing but the best treatment for them in life and in death. We owe them more than they've been given. I had the honor of attending the burial service of Specialist Ross McGinnis of Knox, PA at Arlington Cemetery as one of my first acts in Congress. Specialist McGinnis was killed in action near Adhamiyah, Iraq on December 4, 2006 when he threw himself on top of a grenade thrown into his HMMWV, saving the lives of at least four other soldiers, including one of my constituents. For his actions that day, Spc. McGinnis was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

My bill, and the bill we passed, asks for nothing more than the respect that our distinguished veterans like Spc. McGinnis deserve. I commend my colleagues for their support on this matter.

HONORING VETERAN NEWSPAPER JOURNALIST TYLER WHITLEY FOR 50 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL WORK AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA-AREA NEWSPAPERS

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor veteran Richmond Times-

Dispatch journalist Tyler Whitley. Mr. Whitley has been a newspaper reporter in Richmond, Virginia, for the last 50 years. He has spent 40 of those years covering the Virginia General Assembly, including the 15 years that I served there.

Mr. Whitley, a Virginia native, is a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College in Hampden-Sydney, Virginia. He started his career in 1960 as an obituary writer at the Richmond News Leader. He later became business editor at the News Leader. In 1992, he joined the Times-Dispatch when the News Leader and the Times-Dispatch merged into a single morning newspaper. He has covered nine governors, fourteen national political conventions, and four redistrictings. He has also traveled to ten countries on assignment.

Mr. Whitley is well-respected by journalists and politicians in Virginia. He is affectionately referred to as the dean of the Virginia capitol press corps. Last week, several journalists and editors, Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell, and former Virginia Governors James Gilmore, L. Douglas Wilder, Gerald Baliles and Linwood Hilton gathered to honor Mr. Whitley. The presence of these Governors at Mr. Whitley's 50th anniversary celebration is a testament to the admirable professional legacy he has built in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"If it's true that reporters write the first draft of history, then Tyler has written a lot of history," former Governor Baliles told the Washington Post.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Tyler Whitley for 50 years of exceptional journalism.

HONORING MARY WILLIAMS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mary Williams upon her retirement as the Mariposa County Community Services Director.

Mrs. Williams began her career with Mariposa County on September 1, 1988 as Extra-Help Senior Services Information and Referral Specialist. She was hired full-time on September 1, 1989, as Assistant Veterans' Services Officer. Over the years, Mrs. Williams was reclassified a number of times, first as a Veteran/Senior Services Assistant in 1990, then as Community Services Deputy Director on October 1, 1993. On August 3, 1998, Mrs. Williams was appointed Community Services Director.

Mrs. Williams worked tirelessly for the citizens of Mariposa County. Among the many projects she was involved in, Mrs. Williams provided senior services, senior nutrition, transit, outreach and support for seniors, education seminars and special events of help and interest to seniors; arranged for the first restaurant meal program for seniors; was responsible for overseeing the scheduling and implementing of activities and programs for seniors such as the annual Senior Exposition, the Senior Prom and Thanksgiving dinner; organized a wide variety of fundraisers; and overseeing the Veterans' Services which provides assistance to Veterans, their dependents, survivors and the general public in obtaining benefits from Federal, State, and local

agencies administering programs for Veterans, to name only a few.

Besides her commitments to Mariposa County Community Services, Mrs. Williams also served as a member of a number of groups, including the Future Farmers of America/Western Days and the Farm Bureau, was appointed a member of the Fair Board by the Governor and has worked actively with the Junior Livestock Auction Committee since its formation. Mrs. Williams recently celebrated 50 years of marriage to her husband Kenny and they both look forward to spending more time with their family upon her retirement.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Williams for her dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Williams many years of continued success.

A SALUTE TO WOMEN IN DEFENSE

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Women In Defense, A National Security Organization that will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary this Sunday, December 19, 2010.

Women In Defense began in the fall of 1979 as the brainchild of seven dynamic women, Margo Giordano Anderson, Karen Hopkins, Betty Kimmel, JoHanna Kinley, Diane Lafferman, Lillian Morris, and Rebekah Nottingham. They met and discussed the idea of starting an informal network to assist participants, especially women, in expanding their knowledge of national security issues and of the national defense community in which they participated. The association was incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c)(6) on December 19, 1985.

For 25 years, Women In Defense has provided women a formal environment for professional growth through networking, education, and career development. Its 3,000 members, and 16 chapters throughout the United States, cultivates and supports the advancement and recognition of women in all aspects of national security. Women In Defense also offers the HORIZONS Scholarship, which was established in 1988 to encourage women to pursue careers related to the national security and defense interests, and to provide development opportunities to women already working in these fields.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Women In Defense for the dramatic impact it has had on professionals who serve the national defense and national security of our nation. Its numerous successes have elevated the presence and stature of women in industry and military leadership. Because of their efforts, the United States benefits from a workforce that is better equipped to serve our great nation.

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S PROJECT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the National Alzheimer's Project Act—a bill whose passage will mark the first coordinated and concentrated effort by the Federal Government to meet the challenges posed by Alzheimer's disease.

And, those challenges are many. There's the toll it takes on the physical health of the 5.3 million Americans living with the disease, the toll it takes on the emotional well-being of the 11 million people caring for those with the disease, and the increasingly great toll it takes on the finances of the federal budget. The disease takes and takes. But, with the National Alzheimer's Project Act, we can finally fight back.

The need to do so could not be any clearer.

In 2010, Medicare and Medicaid spent \$122 billion caring for people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Without action, the annual cost to those two programs alone from Alzheimer's disease will reach \$805 billion in 2050. But, we are not destined to increase the Medicare and Medicaid costs of this disease almost sevenfold.

In fact, we know that a therapeutic intervention that delays the onset of Alzheimer's by five years would cut nearly in half the projected Medicare cost of the disease over the same time period.

To reach that future where the number of Americans with the disease does not rise unabated and the costs spiral out of control we will need to marshal all of our resources. With this bill, we assign a field general.

The bill establishes the National Alzheimer's Project within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, to coordinate research across all Federal agencies, and to accelerate the development of treatments that would prevent, halt, or reverse the advancement of the disease.

The creation of a strategic plan not only provides a vision for fighting Alzheimer's, but also mandates the creation of benchmarks to measure our progress in that fight. Today, we have no way of evaluating outcomes, let alone a way to improve them.

I am pleased to support such a critical piece of legislation which will improve the lives of the millions of Americans living with the disease and the millions of Americans caring for them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House floor on the legislative day of December 14, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 628 and 630, and "no" on rollcall vote 629.

CALLING ON STATE DEPARTMENT TO LIST VIETNAM AS A RELIGIOUS FREEDOM VIOLATOR

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H. Res. 20, calling on the State Department to list the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as a "Country of Particular Concern" with respect to religious freedom.

The State Department removed Vietnam from the CPC list in 2006, and since then, the human rights situation in that country has deteriorated significantly. After a brief improvement while Vietnam was seeking membership in the World Trade Organization, the Vietnamese government returned to its former ways—intimidation and repression of basic human freedoms. According to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's (USCIRF) recently released annual report, "The government of Vietnam continues to control government-approved religious communities, severely restrict independent religious practice, and repress individuals and groups viewed as challenging political authority."

Vietnam remains a severe violator of religious freedoms, and the CPC designation is a potentially powerful tool that should be used to highlight this shortcoming and encourage action. USCIRF has recommended CPC status for Vietnam every year since 2001, and continues to do so this year, advising that "[g]iven these ongoing and serious violations, the uneven pace of religious freedom progress after the CPC designation was lifted, the continued detention of prisoners of concern, and new evidence of severe religious freedom abuses, USCIRF again recommends that Vietnam be designated as a CPC in 2010."

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I strongly urge the State Department to follow the advice of the Commission and redesignate Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern.

THE HALL OF FAME IN HONOR OF AN AMERICAN HERO SPC TIM HALL 173 AIRBORNE BRIGADE, THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic sacrifice and service of SPC Tim Hall of the 173rd Airborne Brigade of the United States Army. On June 10, 2010, SPC Hall of Reno, Nevada, was severely wounded by a mortar attack in Kabul, Afghanistan. Although he was severely injured and lost both of his legs, SPC Hall continues his courageous effort on the road to recovery. My sincere gratitude, appreciation, and thoughts are with SPC Hall and all of our service members as they continue to heroically and selflessly sacrifice for our Nation. I am honored to represent SPC Hall and his family in Nevada's 2nd Congressional District. I am proud to submit a poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell for the RECORD.

THE HALL OF FAME

In our country 'Tis of Thee. . . .
 All in this our Nation of the free. . . .
 But stand, the greatest of all Americans in-
 deed. . . .
 Are but all of those who go off the war, for
 you and me. . . .
 The ones who answer That Call To Arms. . . .
 Who put themselves, and their families all in
 such heartache and grave harm. . . .
 To our Nation's Hall of Fame, belong. . . .
 The ones who now so lie in the soft cold dark
 graves, so all alone. . . .
 And all of those others who come back home.

 Without arms and legs, and burns upon their
 bodies own. . . .
 Our best and our brightest, our very bravest
 who so fight this. . . .
 Her most magnificent names. . . . are all but
 in our Nation's Hall of Fame!
 Men, like SPC Tim Hall. . . . of the 173 Air-
 borne, who stood tall. . . .
 As a mortar attack, left him dying. . . .
 As it was but then his brave heart to him,
 started crying. . . .
 Not to give up or to give in. . . . as this war-
 riors new battle would begin!
 With his two fine legs gone, he told himself
 it was time to move on. . . .
 Get Up. . . . Get Moving. . . . Get Airborne!
 As so deep down in his heart, so worn. . . .
 Was the courage and the faith, to somehow
 move on. . . .
 Another Hall of Famer born. . . . with his
 profiles in courage soars. . . .
 To new heights. . . . To Teach Us. . . . To So
 Beseech Us. . . . oh Tim what form!
 As he so Reaches Us, and somehow carries
 on!
 As one of Nevada's Finest Sons. . . .
 There's gold in his heart, this one!
 For this man is Army Strong!
 Hoooh, for in his heart beats such a song!
 A song of Strength In Honor, all day and all
 night long!
 And if I had a son, I wish he but shine like
 this one. . . .
 As thy will be done, for he's in The Hall of
 Fame this son!
 Showing us all to what new heights a heart
 can run!
 America's Son!
 So on this Christmas morning as you awake.

 Or during the Festival of lights, would you
 so take. . . .
 So take the time to remember, all of these.

 Selfless Souls, who so bring us peace!
 Who our Nation's Hall will never cease!

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
 OF JUDGE FRANK BELL FROM
 THE FIRST JUDICIAL COURT OF
 FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge Frank Bell, upon his retirement from presiding on the county and circuit benches for the past 38 years. Judge Bell spent his career serving the northwest Florida community, and I am proud to recognize his dedication and service.

Judge Bell was born and raised in Pensacola, Florida. After graduating from Pensacola High School, Judge Bell enlisted in the Army. After serving on active duty and in the reserves, Judge Bell attended the University of

Southern Mississippi, where he received a B.S. in accounting. He furthered his education at the Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, where he graduated in 1966.

Judge Bell returned to his native Pensacola to practice law. He worked as a sole practitioner, in addition to prosecuting both capital and non-capital cases. In 1972, he was chosen by the people of Escambia County, Florida to serve as a County Judge, and in 1985 he was appointed to the First Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, a job which Judge Bell has carried out with honor and distinction for 25 years.

Judge Bell adheres to the judicial philosophy that impartiality must be preserved to ensure fairness in our legal system. In Judge Bell's view, it is of the upmost importance that judges "convince the litigants that all we want is a fair fight for the party." Some Americans view the justice system with fear and trepidation; however, Judge Bell believes that when citizens experience a fair and impartial judiciary firsthand their opinions change completely. According to Judge Bell, citizens, "after serving on a jury where they see the system work, they develop a positive attitude." Judge Bell's unwavering commitment to upholding the law in an unbiased manner is a prime example of our legal system working at its best and is a great credit to his beloved community.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Judge Frank Bell for his service to northwest Florida and to the United States of America.

ADVANCING PEACEFUL NEGOTIA-
 TIONS IN THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN
 CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I believe that we must advance a negotiated peace process in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, I have concerns that H. Res. 1765 only addresses one of the issues that is impeding lasting peace in the region. For the United States to be an honest, effective broker of peace, we must take into account the roles that all parties play in the conflict.

Particularly now, as we try to rebuild the potential for direct talks, we must weigh our actions based on how effectively they will advance the likelihood of all parties coming to the negotiating table. I strongly support American diplomatic efforts to mediate a two-state solution, and I believe we must direct our efforts towards balanced measures that lay the strongest possible foundation for a peaceful resolution.

TRIBUTE TO RAY ABRIL, JR.

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to an outstanding

friend, mentor and community leader, Mr. Ray Abril, Jr. Ray passed away on December 14, 2010.

Born in Colton, California on June 5, 1932, Ray was raised in South Colton where he dedicated his life to his community and to the improvement of education in the Colton Joint Unified School District.

Ray graduated from Colton High School in 1950. A veteran of the Korean War, he courageously served four years in the Navy.

Ray first became involved in education in the early 1970's, motivated to serve because of the poor state of many local schools at the time. In 1973 he won his first election to the Colton Joint Unified School Board.

Ray often liked to joke that he had a PhD from USC, "The University of South Colton." Throughout his 28 year career with the Colton School Board, Ray played an important part in improving schools. During his time as board member he worked to improve student performance, enhance school safety and increase the number of college-bound students.

A strong advocate for education, Ray was instrumental in advising me on many legislative policy decisions over the years, including my PROUD Act. As a board member, Ray became affectionately known as "The Godfather of the Colton Joint Unified School District." He held the office of Clerk for thirteen years and served as Board President for six years. Ray retired from the Colton Joint Unified Board of Education after 28 years of dedicated service.

Because of Ray's lifelong commitment to education, the Colton Joint Unified School Board decided to recognize him by including his name in the campus of the new high school in Grand Terrace. When complete, the school will be known as the Grand Terrace High School at the Ray Abril, Jr. Educational Complex.

An active member of the community, Ray was involved in a number of organizations including the San Bernardino Countywide Gangs and Drugs Task Force, the Knights of Columbus and the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Advisory Committee. Ray was also a co-founder of the Mexican-American Parent & Student Organization, a group that advocated educational improvements in Colton.

His legacy of work on local issues such as the BNSF rail crossing and his founding of Colton First had a lasting impact on communities across the Inland Empire. After his many years of service, Ray was awarded the Assistance League of San Bernardino's "Living Legend Award" during its 50th anniversary celebration.

Ray was a loving family man. He and his beloved wife Hortensia were married for 53 years before her unfortunate passing. Ray leaves behind his daughters Melinda Medina, Rebecca Gonzales, Nellie Carnero as well as his three sons, Nick, Michael and Dominic. He also leaves behind 19 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

The thoughts and prayers of my wife, Barbara, Mayor pro tem Joe Baca, Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, Jennifer and I are with his family at this time. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a superb American citizen and dedicated community leader. He will be greatly missed and I extend my sincere condolences to his extended family upon the very sad loss of Mr. Ray Abril, Jr.

HONORING SYLVIA L. WARNER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sylvia L. Warner for her outstanding service to the people of Michigan's Eighth Congressional District.

Ms. Warner was born and raised in Roanoke, Virginia. After graduating from Jefferson Senior High School, she began her career in journalism at the Belding Banner where she worked from 1969 through 1973. In her dual role as photographer and reporter, she covered local news in Michigan's Ionia County. It was during this time that she developed her passion for journalism and honed many of her reporting talents.

After leaving the Belding Banner in 1973, she joined The Daily News in Greenville, Michigan. Ms. Warner was promoted through the ranks at the paper where she held several positions. She began as the local reporter for the Family Living Section, then the Managing Editor ending her career with the paper as the Editor. Ms. Warner was instrumental in managing a 10 member staff of reporters and photographers. After 20 years of editorial work focusing on local news and events, Ms. Warner left the publication to pursue other interests.

In 1993, Ms. Warner moved to Lansing, Michigan, and combined her editorial expertise with her passion for politics. She joined the Michigan House Majority Communications Office as a Communications Specialist. Her experience with local and community communications proved to be invaluable to the freshmen House members she was assigned to assist. In 1997, Ms. Warner joined the Michigan Senate Majority Communications Office as Senior Writer and Media Specialist. She was tasked with coordinating special media events and supervising junior writers.

In 1999, I was honored to have Ms. Warner join my Senate Majority Floor Leadership office. She quickly became an invaluable member of my staff. With Ms. Warner's experience and guidance, my ability to communicate and work with media was dramatically improved.

In 2000, when I decided to run for the U.S. House of Representatives, I enlisted Ms. Warner's expertise to serve as my press secretary. With the guidance of a talented team I became the U.S. Representative to Michigan's Eighth Congressional District. This would not have been possible without the years of experience, guidance and faith of such talented people like Ms. Warner.

Since my first congressional race, Ms. Warner has served as an exceptional Press Secretary and has been a cornerstone of my team. After many years of dedicated service, she has decided to move to Michigan to be closer to her children, grandchildren and great grandchild.

I, along with the constituents of Michigan's Eighth District, owe Sylvia Warner a debt of gratitude for her unwavering commitment to public and civic service throughout the years. She will be greatly missed.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Sylvia L. Warner for her service and wish her the best in her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO PATTY BENTLEY

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Patty Bentley of Plattsburgh, New York on her retirement after 41 years as a librarian at Plattsburgh State and other institutions.

Patty was born in Kentucky, spent her early childhood in Michigan, and began her career as a medical librarian at the University of Cincinnati in 1970. Since 1977, she has worked to improve the quality of education for upstate New York students at Plattsburgh State. For 34 years, she has served to make her community a better place by volunteering countless hours with various local organizations. Simply put, Plattsburgh would not be what it is today without her tireless efforts.

I have the privilege of calling Patty my friend, and I continue to look to her for guidance on local issues. At the end of this year, Patty will become a retiree, but I am confident that she will never stop serving the community. Mr. Speaker, I thank Patty Bentley for her years of service and congratulate her on 41 wonderful years on the job.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on December 15, 2011. If I was present, I would have voted on the following: H.R. 5446—rollcall No. 631—"yea"; H. Res. 1759—rollcall No. 632—"yea"; S. Con. Res. 72—rollcall No. 633—"yea"; H.R. 6205—rollcall No. 634—"yea"; H. Res. 1764—rollcall No. 635—"yea"; H. Res. 1761—rollcall No. 636—"yea"; H. Res. 1743—rollcall No. 637—"yea"; H.R. 2965—rollcall No. 638—"yea."

HONORING DON SIMMS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Don Simms upon his retirement as the Assistant District Supervisor for the Wildlife Services Central District.

Mr. Simms began his career with the USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services as an Animal Damage Control Trapper in 1971 in Mariposa County. He eventually left Mariposa County and worked in a number of places in the state and country, including Santa Clara County, Modoc County, San Diego County at the San Diego Wild Animal Park on the wild cheetah project, Alameda County, San Mateo County, and finally on Kodiak Island, Alaska, on a raccoon rabies project. In 1983, Mr. Simms came back to Mariposa County to become the Assistant District Supervisor for the Wildlife Services Central District.

Mr. Simms has been a dedicated employee of the Wildlife Services program and of Mariposa County. His trapping skills are legendary and he has developed a number of control devices and techniques that have been used in the County and throughout other western states. Mr. Simms has also made presentations on his techniques to Wildlife Services employees in other western states. Mr. Simms has dealt with a wide variety of animals in his time with Wildlife Services, including rattlesnakes, feral pigs, bears, mountain lions and even a Bengal tiger.

In addition to his service to the county, Mr. Simms is a dedicated family man. Don and his wife Judy look forward to having more time to enjoy with their children and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Simms for his dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Simms many years of continued success.

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S PROJECT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support S. 3036, the National Alzheimer's Project Act. This bill would provide critical federal support and coordination to overcome the growing Alzheimer's crisis.

Today, the effects of Alzheimer's disease are devastating. An estimated 5.3 million people are living with the disease. We must act decisively, or the devastation of Alzheimer's disease will grow far worse. Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and is the fastest growing of the 10 leading causes of death. In 2010, Medicare and Medicaid will spend \$122 billion caring for people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

The National Alzheimer's Project Act would establish an inter-agency advisory council to address the government's efforts on Alzheimer's research, care, institutional services, and home and community-based programs. It would also increase awareness, support, and outreach for those confronted with Alzheimer's disease and for their families to help better equip our nation to face this disease.

To decrease health disparities, this bill will work to ensure the inclusion of ethnic and racial populations who are at higher risk for Alzheimer's or who are less likely to receive care in clinical, research, and service programs.

Legislation that advances a cure for Alzheimer's disease is near and dear to my heart because of my father and the millions of others like him who live every day with this disease.

I urge my colleagues to support such a critical piece of legislation. It's a monumental step forward in our battle against Alzheimer's and other dementias.

ISLAND ELDERLY HOUSING ON
MARTHA'S VINEYARD**HON. BILL DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Island Elderly Housing, an organization that has done an outstanding job of serving the people of Martha's Vineyard.

Island Elderly Housing (IEH) was formed in 1976 by local residents of the Island who were active in healthcare, housing, serving elders and the ministry to provide decent, safe and affordable housing for low and moderate income elderly and handicapped persons. Under the able leadership of Carol Lashnits, the agency has created twelve developments totaling 165 units, using both donated land and buildings and financing from the USDA and HUD.

IEH has grown to become a leader in the advocacy and provision of residential and related services for Island elderly and handicapped residents. Since 1981 when IEH received its first construction loan of \$1.9 million from the Farmers Home Administration's Section 515 program, the agency has received more than \$26 million in federal and state grants and loans, and private grants and donations.

As the nonprofit developer and manager for all of the units, IEH is responsible for the fiscal management for all of the development funds as well as the ongoing operating budgets.

Careful management of its funds and its fiscal responsibility has resulted in ongoing receipt of grants and contributions to IEH and its programs from foundations, local religious organizations, and area citizens.

In 2007, Carol Lashnits left her position as Executive Director for IEH and was replaced by Ann Wallace. Under Wallace, with the help of the larger community and a staff of fifteen, supportive services to aging residents have improved and increased and now include transportation, health, education, advocacy, community building, recreation, exercise, yoga, a meals program, spiritual opportunities, gardening and intergenerational activities.

At the present time the IEH's Board and Executive Director are analyzing the present and future needs of elders on the Island as it plans for its own future activities. It is my hope that its next 30 years will be as productive as its first 30 years have been.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on December 14–15, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for Rollcall No. 628–638. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 628—"yes"—Longfellow House–Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site Designation Act.

Rollcall No. 629—"yes"—Census Oversight Efficiency and Management Reform Act of 2010.

Rollcall No. 630—"yes"—To direct the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Houston, Texas, to the Military Museum of Texas, and for other purposes.

Rollcall No. 631—"yes"—Harry T. and Harriette Moore Post Office.

Rollcall No. 632—"yes"—Expressing support for designation of January 23rd as "Ed Roberts Day".

Rollcall No. 633—"yes"—Recognizing the 45th anniversary of the White House Fellows Program.

Rollcall No. 634—"yes"—Private Isaac T. Cortes Post Office.

Rollcall No. 635—"yes"—Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2965.

Rollcall No. 636—"yes"—Congratulating Auburn University quarterback and College Park, Georgia, native Cameron Newton on winning the 2010 Heisman Trophy for being the most outstanding college football player in the United States.

Rollcall No. 637—"yes"—Congratulating Gerda Weissmann Klein on being selected to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Rollcall No. 638—"yes"—Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010.

INTRODUCTION OF THE QUILEUTE
TRIBE TSUNAMI PROTECTION ACT**HON. NORMAN D. DICKS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Quileute Tribe Tsunami Protection Act. This legislation will provide land to the Quileute Tribe to enable the re-location of many facilities outside the tsunami zone. Many of you may know that the Quileute Tribe is featured in the Twilight series of movies.

For people like the Quileutes living along the Pacific coast of the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State, a tsunami is a very real threat they face every day. The Quileute day care facility, the elder center, Tribal offices and Tribal members' homes are directly in the path of the tsunami that one day will surely come. Getting the Tribe out of danger is of great concern to all of us, and I am very pleased to introduce legislation to help the Tribe move their people and infrastructure out of the danger zone.

The Olympic National Park completely surrounds the one-mile-square Quileute Reservation, most of which is threatened either by tsunami or the Quillayute River flood zone. The only way to get the Tribe out of the danger zone is for the Park to transfer higher, safer lands to the Tribe. For many years there has been a dispute between the Park and the Tribe about the northern boundary of the Reservation, and this legislation resolves that dispute to the benefit of the Park, the Tribe and the general public. In addition to protecting the Tribe from tsunami threat, this legislation will permanently preserve public access to some of the most beautiful beaches on the Washington State coast, and will permanently protect as wilderness thousands of acres currently in the Olympic National Park.

I want to thank the Quileute Tribe, National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis and Olympic

National Park Superintendent Karen Gustin for their hard work over many years to resolve this dispute. There must be Congressional approval for this settlement, so I ask my colleagues to consider the present danger to the Tribe and to support this bill.

HONORING NORMAN YOSHIO
MINETA

SPEECH OF

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1377, a resolution honoring the accomplishments and legacy of a great American patriot, Norman Yoshio Mineta.

Mr. Mineta's life began like that of so many other Americans. He was born in 1931 in San Jose, California, the son of immigrant parents. However, unlike the typical American story, he and the Mineta family were forced to leave their home and live in the Heart Mountain internment camp near Cody, Wyoming, during World War II. Norm Mineta overcame this experience and went on to graduate from the University of California at Berkeley and serve his country as an intelligence officer in the United States Army.

Most of us know Norm Mineta as Secretary Mineta. In 2000, Secretary Mineta became the first Asian American to serve in a Presidential Cabinet when he was appointed Secretary of Commerce by President William J. Clinton. He continued to break new barriers when he became the first Asian American to serve as Secretary of Transportation in President George W. Bush's cabinet. He went on to become America's longest serving Secretary of Transportation.

For many of us, Norm will always be "Secretary Mineta" because of the respect and leadership which has become synonymous with his name. He is a true political trailblazer and leader of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. In 1967, he was the first Asian American to serve on the San Jose city council and he became the first Asian American mayor of a major United States city when he was elected to lead San Jose in 1971.

From 1975 to 1995, Secretary Mineta continued to serve the San Jose community as its Representative in the U.S. House of Representatives. During his twenty years in the House, he championed legislation that established Asian Pacific American Heritage Week, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, and the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the seminal reparations bill where the United States Government officially apologized for sending families of Japanese descent to internment camps during World War II. He helped author the Americans with Disabilities Act, which became law in 1990. He also co-authored the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, which gave state and local governments control over highway and mass transit decisions. Under his leadership, then-Congressman Mineta founded and chaired the bicameral and bipartisan Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, which continues to promote and advocate Asian American and Pacific Islander concerns and issues.

To this day, Secretary Mineta remains a prominent leader within the Asian American and Pacific Islander community through his work with numerous civic organizations. He is a recognized expert on transportation and homeland security issues. He received the highest civilian award in the United States when he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2006.

Of course, we could spend a good portion of our lifetime reciting Norm Mineta's achievements. I, however, would like to close my remarks by simply heralding what I believe to be the true mark of this great American statesman: through thick and thin, Norm Mineta has carried his country on his shoulders. With Secretary Mineta, no one is left behind and America can never have a bad day. For that, Norm Mineta has earned our eternal affection and commands our grateful respect.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 1377, a tribute to a distinguished former member of this body, Norman Yoshio Mineta.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS M. DIEMER

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, and Congressman PETE STARK to recognize East Bay Municipal Utility District General Manager Dennis M. Diemer and congratulate him as he approaches his well-earned retirement.

Mr. Diemer's career in public service demonstrates his lifelong commitment to the citizens and communities of the East Bay. We are grateful to him for his service to our constituents.

He began his career with EBMUD in 1981 as a senior environmental engineer, and over the ensuing years he was promoted to positions of increasing responsibility at the agency. In 1995, the board of directors selected him to serve as acting general manager, and he was appointed as general manager on February 13, 1996.

In California, where our water fights are legendary, Dennis' collaborative approach helped EBMUD make strides toward a secure water future. Working with the district's board of directors, Dennis and his team focused on identifying and working with partners for water supply projects. He played a significant role in ending years of water wars between the East Bay, the Sacramento area, and the environmental community, an effort which evolved into the Freeport Regional Water Project.

Dennis' work has made a long-term difference in the environmental quality of the Bay Area. He has long promoted protection of San Francisco Bay, from his work in the 1980s managing a collaborative effort with local communities to abate uncontrolled sewage discharges into San Francisco to more recent efforts to forge agreements that put EBMUD and local communities on a long term path toward controlling wet weather discharges to the Bay. In addition, under his watch, the district's new long range plan included a pioneering analysis

of the potential impacts of climate change on future water supply. These actions will result in better protection of public health and the environment.

Dennis has demonstrated exceptional leadership for EBMUD, making the organizational and process improvements necessary to anticipate and adapt to changes in regulations, technology, the environment, and the world around us.

Madam Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join us in honoring General Manager Dennis Diemer for his dedicated service to the people of California and the Bay Area. We are pleased to join with his family, colleagues, and friends in congratulating Dennis on a long and highly successful career and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SUPERVISORS GAIL STEELE AND ALICE LAI-BITKER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gail Steele and Alice Lai-Bitker, who have chosen to retire from their exemplary service on the Alameda Board of Supervisors at the end of this year. Supervisors Steele and Lai-Bitker have served their districts with honor and distinction.

Supervisor Steele has held many positions of leadership in organizations in Alameda County including Alameda County Mental Health Advisory Board; Chair, Alameda Alliance for Health; Chair, Alameda County Children's Memorial Grove and Flag Committee; President of Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum/Area Joint Power Authority; Chair, Local Agency Formation Commission; Executive Committee of the Association of Bay Area Governments; and the Liaison Committee of the East Bay Regional Parks.

She served on the Hayward City Council from 1974 to 1982, and has represented the Second Supervisory District since June 1992. She served as President of the Board of Supervisors from January 1995 to January 1997, and again from January 2003 to January 2005.

Alice Lai-Bitker was unanimously appointed to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in December 2000. She was re-elected twice by voters in District Three, where she is serving until her tenure ends at the end of December 2010. In January 2009, she was selected by her colleagues to serve as President of the Board for 2009 and 2010.

During her tenure as Supervisor, Ms. Lai-Bitker has been a strong advocate for increasing health care for children. She spearheaded the No Wrong Door policy in Social Services to ensure quick and efficient service. Her work on domestic violence includes A Day of Remembrance, honoring victims of domestic violence and assisting in obtaining federal funds for a Family Justice Center in Alameda County.

Ms. Lai-Bitker chairs the Board's Health Committee and serves on the Social Service Committee. She is a member of the Alameda County Transportation Authority and she represents the Board of Supervisors on the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

She is a member of the Board of the George Mark Children's House, the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare Community and California State University East Bay Institute for Mental Health and Wellness Education.

Supervisors Steele and Lai-Bitker have many notable accomplishments, and have won many awards for their contributions. I join the community in thanking each of these outstanding women for the significant impact they've had in our community.

HONORING BRIAN MULLER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Brian Muller upon his retirement as the Mariposa County Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator.

Mr. Muller has served Mariposa since February of 1981, when he started in the Sheriff's Office as a Jail Officer/Dispatcher. In November of 1985, he became a Deputy Sheriff, after which he received a series of promotions: to Sergeant in 1998, to Lieutenant in 1999 and finally to Undersheriff in 2003. Finally, Mr. Muller was appointed as the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator in January 2008 and he has ably served the County in that capacity since.

While working for the Sheriff's Office, Mr. Muller was responsible for a wide range of duties in the County, including 9-1-1 dispatch, patrol, an adult detention facility, investigations, court security, boat patrol, animal control, coroner, public administrator duties, and Sheriff's Community Organized Policing Effort (SCOPE). Mr. Muller also successfully applied for a number of grants from the State of California that benefited Mariposa County. For his service to the County, Mr. Muller received a number of awards, including the Mariposa Gazette Best Peace Officer award and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year from Mountain Crisis Services.

In addition to his many duties as Sheriff, Mr. Muller has contributed to the County in other ways. Brad and his wife Sarah are actively involved in their church and regularly assist at the Senior Center.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brad Muller for his dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Muller many years of continued success.

HONORING CLARKE WARDLAW McCANTS, JR.

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Clarke Wardlaw McCants, Jr., of Columbia, South Carolina, who passed away on December 3 of this year. Clarke Wardlaw McCants, Jr., was a brilliant legal mind. Growing up in Columbia in the 1930s, he distinguished himself among his peers as a fine attorney and was recognized by The Best Lawyers in America in its Trusts

and Estates Section. An active member of the American Bar Association, he even served as the Editor of the Association's Journal of Real Property and Probate Trust Law.

Not just an outstanding lawyer, Clarke McCants was a kind man who raised a fine family that he took great pride in. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Anne Lucius McCants and many loving children and grandchildren. It is important that the people of our nation step forward to serve their communities and give back to their country. This was not lost on Clarke McCants who gave generously of his time to his community.

Educated at the University of South Carolina as both an undergraduate and a law school student, he was a very active participant in the student government and many various extra curricular programs on campus such as Omicron Delta Kappa, President of Pi Kappa Alpha, and the debate team.

Between his undergraduate and law school education, Mr. McCants served us all in the United States Army Air Corps as a flight radio operator. His service in World War II earned him one Bronze Star. We are thankful for his service and we can all learn from the life experiences of Clarke Wardlaw McCants, Jr.

In closing, I just wanted to take a moment to share my condolences to the family of Clarke Wardlaw McCants, Jr. The entire staff and I are sorry for your loss and the pain this has caused you and your family.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTING
GIRLS BY PREVENTING CHILD
MARRIAGE ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 987, legislation that would authorize the United States to provide assistance for the prevention of child marriage in the developing world. Regrettably, child marriage continues to be an all-too-common practice in many third-world countries. We as a nation have a moral obligation to do all that we can to assist with the prevention of this deplorable custom. Marrying before puberty or during early to mid-adolescence places young women in dire circumstances—where they face severe health risks in pregnancy and childbirth, where they are trapped in positions of complete dependence and where they are subjected to verbal and physical abuse at the hands of their spouses. It is imperative for the United States to take a strong stance against this practice by investing in efforts to prevent child marriage and empower susceptible young women in these developing nations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CONGRATULATING GREENWOOD,
SOUTH CAROLINA'S SELF RE-
GIONAL HEALTHCARE

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Greenwood, South Carolina's Self Regional Healthcare on receiving the South Carolina Governor's Quality Award. Presented by the South Carolina Quality Forum; an affiliate of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the Governor's Quality Award recognizes organizations across the state that have mirrored the superior standards of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

As my colleagues know, the Baldrige Program's mission is to improve the competitiveness and performance of U.S. organizations. It is the only formal recognition of performance excellence given by the President of the United States to companies and organizations in the business, healthcare, education, and nonprofit sectors.

Five years in the making, Self Regional was recognized for improving the quality of patient care while simultaneously improving the outlook of its long-term financial performance. I give credit to the team of 2,300 physicians, administrators and volunteers who worked tirelessly to put their patients first. To each and every one of them, I say, a job well done.

I am pleased to see everyone involved at Self Regional being recognized for their hard work and dedication by the Governor's Quality Award. While congratulations are certainly in order, I concur with Mr. Jim Pfeffier, President and CEO of Self Regional, who said, "It is important to note the real winners in this are our patients, for quality and safety are especially important when it comes to addressing the health needs of others."

Since making the commitment to improve its level of patient care, Self Regional has received the Quality Forum's Silver Award twice and the Explorer's Award once. With such a stellar track record, Self Regional is making a name for itself in not only South Carolina, but also, across the nation. I am pleased to add my name to the many that offer Self Regional their heartfelt congratulations on this award.

IN RECOGNITION OF JULIE
LANCELLE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Julie Lancelle for her outstanding community service in Pacifica, California, since 1986.

Julie moved to Pacifica in 1986 with her husband and daughter and was quickly drawn into the public activism intrinsic to this coastal town. One of her first causes was the opposition to extending the Highway 1 freeway south of Rockaway Beach. The following year she was appointed to the Pacifica Open Space Task Force.

In 1992, Julie was first elected to the Pacifica City Council. After serving a two-year

term, she left to spend more time with her children. In 1997, she recommitted herself to community service and became a member of the Pacifica Land Trust Board where she used her years of experience to preserve open space.

She was again elected to the city council in 2002 and during her eight years of service was instrumental in the completion of the Pacifica Strategic Plan, the Palmetto Streetscape Plan and the expansion of the Community Emergency Response Team Program. She advocated for the preservation of the habitat at Sharp Park, balancing environmental concerns with the recreational pursuits of golf and archery. Julie also represented her community on the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the City/County Association of Governments.

Throughout her life, Julie has been passionate about the outdoors and the preservation of open space. One of the highlights in her career was the purchase of Mori Point and its inclusion into the Golden Gate National Recreational Area. She launched a campaign for that purchase and organized the community to raise money to partner with the Trust for Public Land, the Park Service and the Coastal Conservancy. Thanks to Julie, Mori Point is now a spectacular hiking area open to everyone.

Madam Speaker, it is right to honor my friend and colleague Julie Lancelle for her outstanding advocacy and dedication to her community, particularly on December 15, 2010, the day she retires from the Pacifica City Council.

HONORING CHRIS EBIE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Chris Ebie upon his retirement as the Mariposa County Auditor.

Mr. Ebie began his career with Mariposa County in September of 1987 as Account Clerk III in the Auditor's Office. In November of 1988, he was promoted to Assistant Auditor. In April 2005, Mr. Ebie briefly left Mariposa County but returned in January 2006 as the Board-appointed County Auditor. In June 2007, Mr. Ebie was officially elected to the position of County Auditor.

In his time with the County, Mr. Ebie worked on a number of projects, including coordinating efforts in assuring the County's compliance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 45, maintaining the County's software and budget structure and implementing the Alternative Measurement Method (AMM) for reporting costs and liabilities associated with health and other non-pension benefits for public employees.

In addition to his service to the County, Mr. Ebie is a dedicated family man. Chris and his wife Grace are the proud parents of four children and the proud grandparents of four grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Ebie for his dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Ebie many years of continued success.

HAITI EARTHQUAKE

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the plight of Haiti. As we all know, Haiti suffered a devastating earthquake in January 2010. The magnitude 7 quake claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of Haitians, displaced over a million and left the capital of Port-au-Prince and outlying country areas in ruins.

Haiti's road to recovery has been long and arduous. Despite overwhelming support from the international community, the success of redevelopment and rebuilding efforts has been extremely limited. Even today, thousands remain in international displacement camps, many overrun with disease and violence. To date, more than a thousand have died due to the cholera outbreak. Even more continue to suffer in unspeakable poverty and squalor.

One of the strongest obstacles to meaningful recovery in Haiti has been a political environment long plagued with corruption and dishonesty. Despite the presence of over 100 observers, Haiti's presidential election two Sundays ago was overrun with allegations of fraud and overtly questionable practices. It is my hope that the election results are indeed as accurate as possible and that the former First Lady Mirlande Manigat and ruling party candidate Jude Celestin are the true, democratically elected candidates to participate in the Presidential run-off.

Although Haiti experienced numerous political and economic problems prior to the earthquake, the current level of challenges the Haitian people are facing is no longer tolerable. The United States and the international community cannot continue to accept the pace at which Haiti's recovery is taking place, while human lives are at stake. We can all do better, and to choose complacency over deliberate action would be a grave insult to humanity.

As we approach a new year and a new Congress, I urge my colleagues to never forget Haiti and the challenges its people continue to face. As the Representative of a large Caribbean-American constituency and as a daughter of Caribbean, Haiti has always been close to my heart. However, my commitment to helping Haiti does not solely come from my constituency or my familial background. It comes from my identity as a public servant and a citizen of the world. In all of my work, I will continue to give the people of Haiti a voice. I will not give up until my colleagues recognize Haiti and Haiti resurges as the pearl of the Caribbean once again.

Let us never forget that as we unite with the people of Haiti, Haitian-Americans and the Haitian Diaspora to assist with the development of this great nation, we are forever guided by the words etched indelibly on the Haitian flag, 'L'Union fait la force' (Loon yon fe la force) . . . through unity, there is strength!

SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, 17 years have passed since the signing of the Oslo Peace Accords in 1993, but a final resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has yet to be achieved.

The question is: Why?

Only by first understanding the reasons that the conflict continues, can the United States set and implement a policy that can help to encourage a true and lasting peace.

So let us consider the conduct of both sides.

One Israeli government after another has been willing and able to make painful sacrifices, including territorial withdrawals, to achieve peace.

As Secretary of State Clinton has noted, the current Israeli government has made unprecedented concessions in pursuit of peace, including a ten-month moratorium on housing construction in the West Bank in order to encourage the Palestinians to negotiate directly with Israel.

In short, Israel has proven its commitment to peace.

However, Mr. Speaker, Israel does not seem to have a partner in this endeavor.

Palestinian leaders still never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity, and continue to default on their international obligations.

They continue to refuse to negotiate directly with Israel, without preconditions.

Instead of encouraging the Palestinian people to accept Israel as a permanent neighbor with whom they should live in peace, the leaders in Ramallah continue to tolerate, encourage, and even participate in anti-Israel incitement.

They continue to refuse to recognize Israel's right to exist as a democratic, Jewish state.

Even as the Palestinian leadership seeks a state for the Palestinian people, it would deny the right of the Jewish people to a state in their own homeland.

We are not talking about isolated, fringe elements.

Palestinian rejectionism and non-compliance flows from the very top.

Earlier this year, the leader of the Palestinian Authority and the PLO, Abu Mazen, praised the recently-deceased mastermind of the PLO's massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Abu Mazen also expressed what he called his "firm rejection of the so-called Jewishness of the state [of Israel]," saying that "This issue is over for us; we have not and will not recognize it."

Last year, Abu Mazen said that "Presently, we are against armed struggle, because we cannot cope with it. But things could be different at some future phase."

And a former PA foreign minister and senior associate of Abu Mazen has announced that the PA would be intensifying its diplomatic and economic offensive against Israel, with the aims of isolating Israel, preventing it from building its ties with the European Union, and expelling Israel from the U.N.

Already, the PA tried—unsuccessfully—to block Israel's candidacy for membership in the OECD.

And now, instead of sitting down with the Israeli government to negotiate directly, the Palestinian leadership is conducting an extensive campaign to seek recognition of a Palestinian state by foreign governments and within the U.N. and other international organizations.

Unfortunately, in response to a request from Abu Mazen, the Brazilian government recently agreed to recognize a Palestinian state, instead of urging the Palestinians to fulfill their commitments.

The governments of Argentina and Uruguay have also indicated that they intend to recognize a Palestinian state.

The Palestinian leadership is aggressively lobbying other nations to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a partner for peace.

But as we've seen over and over, Palestinian leaders are not going to make the tough decisions and change their ways unless they have to.

By providing over \$2 billion in assistance in the last five years alone—with hundreds of millions more planned—the U.S. is only rewarding and reinforcing bad behavior by Ramallah.

Enough is enough.

We should finally hold PA leaders accountable, which is why I will soon introduce legislation to clarify and tighten existing U.S. laws that deny funding to the PA until they meet their commitments.

The Administration should also reverse its decision to allow the PLO office in DC to call itself a "General Delegation" and to fly the Palestinian flag.

That decision sent the wrong signal to other governments, who concluded they should also upgrade the PLO's status in their countries.

Furthermore, the U.S. should stop pressuring the Israeli government to make more and more concessions, and must not attempt to impose the terms of a solution.

Mr. Speaker, I will support the resolution before us because it reinforces Congressional opposition to unilateral efforts by Palestinian leaders to gain recognition from other governments or within the U.N.

I would draw particular attention to the fact that the resolution calls on the Administration to publicly affirm that it will: deny recognition to any unilaterally declared Palestinian state; and veto any U.N. Security Council resolution to establish or recognize a Palestinian state.

The Administration must also oppose efforts by the Palestinians to seek recognition from, or membership in, any international organizations.

I would like to thank my distinguished colleague from Texas, Congressman Poe, for introducing the resolution that served as the basis for the measure before us today.

Judge Poe went out of his way to ensure that his resolution was fully bipartisan, securing the support of many Democrat cosponsors, including my distinguished colleague from Nevada, Ms. BERKLEY.

We had requested that the Poe-Berkley resolution be considered on the floor.

Regrettably, the Majority decided to introduce a new resolution on this issue instead.

Supporting the pursuit of Middle East peace, and supporting our ally Israel, is one area that has strong bipartisan support in Congress, and by and large, the text of this resolution reflects that bipartisanship.

But this matter could have and should have been handled better.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution before us.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY OF CALIFORNIA
STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize California State University, Fresno as it celebrates its one hundred-year anniversary.

Beginning in 1911 as a small teachers college, Fresno State has built a reputation for its academic standards as well as its athletic achievements. Located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, Fresno State has played an important role in the history of the valley, including making it the most productive agricultural region in the world.

Fresno State is one of the few universities in the country to have an on-campus diversified farm of over 1,000 acres. The campus was also the first in the country fully licensed to produce, bottle, and sell wine.

Home to the largest library in the California State University System, Fresno State has educated innovative professionals in everything from winemaking to nursing to liberal arts. The extensive range of degrees offered by the college mirrors the diversity of the valley.

In addition to outstanding academic standards, Fresno State has gained a reputation for its championship-winning athletic program. This includes the Bulldogs baseball team winning the 2008 College World Series.

From its beginnings as the Fresno Normal School, Fresno State has become one of the leading academic institutions in the San Joaquin Valley. I am proud to have the Fresno State campus in my district and congratulate past and present students, teachers, and administrators for 100 years of success.

DEVELOPMENT, RELIEF, AND EDUCATION
FOR ALIEN MINORS
(DREAM) ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act.

This legislation provides minors who were brought to the U.S. as children a path to legal status, and eventually citizenship. To qualify for conditional status for five years, an individual must be 29 years old or younger, have lived in the U.S. for 5 years prior to enactment, graduate from an American high school, and meet numerous other requirements. After five years, an individual may apply for an additional five years of conditional status only if they have completed at least two years of post-secondary education or served two years

in the U.S. Armed Forces. Following this second five year period, a person that has continued to meet the conditions of this bill would be able to file for legal permanent status. Only, after three years in this status, 13 years total, would a person be eligible to apply for citizenship.

Contrary to the rhetoric on the other side, the DREAM Act is anything but amnesty. Instead, this bill is a bipartisan acknowledgment that a significant number of children currently live in this country with no legal status and no avenue to gain legal status. Without this legislation, we are essentially telling individuals who have grown up here, assimilated to our culture, and obtained a high school education that the only home for them is in another country. That is both wrong and counterproductive.

Those that would be eligible under this legislation are motivated, smart young people who want nothing more than to utilize their skills and education here in America by going to college or serving in the Armed Forces. Not only is the passage of this bill the right thing to do, but it would be foolish for a country whose economic prosperity depends upon an educated workforce to let these young people take their talents abroad.

The DREAM Act provides young people who have done nothing wrong the opportunity to come out of the shadows, build a life in America, and contribute to the prosperity of our nation.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting for this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, due to severe weather which delayed my return to Washington, D.C., I was unable to be on the House Floor for rollcall votes 628, 629 and 630. Had I been present I would have voted: yea on rollcall vote 628; nay on rollcall vote 629; and yea on rollcall vote 630.

GERRY HOUSE

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Gerry House on the occasion of his retirement from WSIX radio and the end of his famous radio show, Gerry House and the House Foundation. Mr. House is an award-winning American radio personality, talented songwriter, stand-up comic and an outstanding Tennessean.

The king of morning radio in Nashville, Gerry has kept listeners company in their cars, offices and homes for three decades. He will be the first-ever country music DJ to join other American radio and television luminaries in the National Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Gerry is truly engaged in all levels of the music industry. He has written songs for leg-

ends like George Strait, Reba McEntire, LeAnn Rimes, Brad Paisley, Randy Travis, and the Oak Ridge Boys. A savvy businessman, Mr. House also operates a music publishing company, House Notes, which owns the songs he has written.

The sustained excellence of Gerry House and the House Foundation has been recognized by virtually every respected country music and radio association in the United States. It has received three awards from the Country Music Association, seven from the Academy of Country Music, eight Billboard Awards, and nine R&R awards. Gerry is also the recipient of the NAB Marconi Radio Award for Large Market Air Personality of the Year.

Gerry cited his desire to devote more of his time to other projects as his reason for retiring. His loyal fans are eagerly waiting to see what these projects will turn out to be because we all want more of Gerry.

And so, Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Gerry's leadership and accomplishments. The people of Nashville and Middle Tennessee are grateful for Gerry waking us up in the morning in such an enjoyable way. It's hard to make a long commute fun, but Gerry House did it for 30 years.

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL REPEAL
ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation to repeal the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Policy.

Enacted in 1993, DADT was billed as a compromise that would allow gay and lesbian Americans to serve their country in the Armed Forces without harming military effectiveness or violating privacy rights. After over 15 years of experience, it is clear this policy is a failure.

Over 14,000 service members have been discharged under DADT, including more than 800 mission-critical troops and dozens of Arabic and Farsi linguists. A Government Accountability Office report and independent studies have estimated the cost of this policy, in lost recruitment and training costs, at over \$350 million. Yet, from 2003–2007, the military lowered medical, conduct, and education standards significantly in order to meet recruitment goals. Serious misdemeanors and felony conviction waivers increased from 5,000 to over 10,000, including 3 soldiers who had been convicted of manslaughter, 11 convicted of arson, 142 convicted of burglary, and 7 convicted of rape or sexual assault. Discharging qualified gay soldiers while simultaneously lowering the enlistment standards for others weakens our military.

DADT also offends the values of our country, discriminating against some individuals based upon an innate characteristic that has no bearing on the ability to serve honorably in the military. Currently, 24 other nations allow openly gay service, including Australia, Israel, Great Britain and Canada. Numerous studies have found no adverse effect on enrollment or retention in any of these countries. On the

other hand, nations like Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran all ban gay service. I believe the interests of the U.S. are best served by following the lead of other democratic nations, our allies, rather than the policies of the most oppressive regimes in the world.

Study after study has shown that open service does not affect military readiness or unit cohesion. In the recently released Department of Defense review, 70 percent of service members responded that repeal would not have a negative effect on the military. Of those who had actually served alongside someone who they thought to be gay, 92 percent of respondents said that it did not have an impact on unit cohesion. Repeal is also strongly supported by the American public, with a recent Washington Post poll showing 77 percent of the public supports open military service. It is clear our Nation and our military is ready for this change.

The most urgent reason for repeal, however, is that DADT places honorable young men and women in the decidedly dishonorable position of lying about who they are in order to serve. It is unconscionable that we would continue to make the lives of soldiers, many of whom face daily threats to their lives, more difficult by placing upon them the burden of lying about their sexual orientation.

Earlier this year, I read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an email from a current service member who happens to be gay. He shared how he and his partner of 10 years managed the stress and hardship that comes with 3 deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Despite their shared sacrifices, his partner receives no official support from the military. would not be the first to be informed of his death, and cannot make emergency decisions. While serving in active duty, he was aware of several other soldiers who were gay. In one case, he didn't know a friend was gay until after he died of wounds from an IED and received a letter from the deceased soldier's partner expressing how much he had loved the Army and the sense of family he felt among his fellow soldiers. These are the real victims of DADT.

No one should have to lie in order to serve, but that is what current policy requires for the estimated 65,000 gay and lesbian Americans currently in the military. The time for debate, and procrastination, and procedural stalling tactics is over. The choice today is clear: continue to stand beside a harmful and discriminatory policy that the American public and our Nation's military leaders do not support or vote to repeal it.

I encourage my colleagues to do the right thing—support this legislation, and finally put an end to the era of “Don't Ask, Don't Tell.”

STANDING WITH OUR ALLY SOUTH KOREA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I was deeply saddened and outraged by North Korea's recent attack on Yeonpyeong island which killed four South Koreans and wounded 20. Officials estimated that the North had fired roughly 200 artillery shells onto Yeonpyeong. The Novem-

ber 23 attack was the first on civilian-populated areas since the Korean War.

This is just the latest provocation on the part of Pyongyang—a regime infamous for its deplorable human rights record and Soviet style gulags.

Recently North Korea showed Dr. Siegfried Hecker, the former head of the U.S. Los Alamos National Laboratory, a new modern uranium enrichment facility with 2,000 centrifuges. The North Koreans claimed it is producing low enriched uranium destined for fuel for a new light-water nuclear reactor. According to the Congressional Research Service, “Although Dr. Hecker has said that the centrifuge plant and the new reactor appear to be designed primarily for civilian nuclear power, the uranium facilities could also be used to produce fissile material suitable for nuclear weapons.”

These are deeply troubling developments. During this time of heightened tensions in the Korean Peninsula we must actively work with our long-term ally South Korea to ensure a lasting peace in the region and continue to expose the true nature of the North Korea regime which the international community can no longer deny.

SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1765, a resolution supporting a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and condemning unilateral declarations of a Palestinian state.

As a co-chair of the Democratic Israel Working Group, I would like to thank my colleague, Chairman HOWARD BERMAN, for bringing this important resolution to the House floor.

I have been to Israel and the West Bank on numerous occasions. I can personally vouch for the yearning of the people of Israel and the Palestinian territories to come to a peaceful settlement that will end decades of discord and violence.

A negotiated two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians is the underpinning of the peace process. It is the official policy of the U.S. Government, the Israeli Government and of the Palestinian Authority.

Only through direct negotiations can difficult compromises be reached on core issues like borders, water, refugees, the status of Jerusalem, and security.

Unfortunately, Palestinian leaders are pursuing a coordinated strategy to bypass the negotiations process to seek recognition of a unilaterally declared Palestinian state by the United Nations and other international forums.

Recently, the governments of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay unilaterally recognized the State of Palestine upon request from Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Unilateral declarations of statehood will not eliminate the sources of the conflict. Rather, they undermine the peace process and endanger the safety and security of the Israeli and Palestinian people.

This country and this Congress remain the largest grantor of assistance to help the Pales-

tinian Authority build the political, economic and social infrastructure to support a future state. The unilateral statehood effort will undermine the ability of the United States to continue playing a constructive role.

I call upon my colleagues to vote in support of the peace process, of a secure Israel and viable, democratic Palestinian state and in favor of this resolution.

BROTHER . . . BROTHER . . . COMBAT MEDIC SPC JEROD HEATH OSBORNE, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American family, and a fallen hero and his brother. On July 5, 2010, Combat Medic SPC Jerod Heath Osborne of Royce, Texas of the 4/73 82nd Airborne, died during an IED explosion in Afghanistan. In his short life he was a combat medic, an Angel on the Battlefield, the ones who rush in while all around the face of hell is going on. The lives that he has saved in his brief but great life will be measured in the future, with children and heroes that he has saved. His brother, a SSG in the 22nd Infantry, on September 21 of that same year almost died in a mortar attack and is currently fighting to save his leg. This family, throughout the generations, has served our nation in the Armed Forces. The very bed of our Nation's freedom is built upon selfless families, our prayers and thoughts go out to them. SSG Grillet has said that his brother Jerod always wanted to be just like him, but now he wants to be like his brother.

Brother . . . Brother . . .

Brother . . . Brother . . .

My . . .

My Brother's Gift . . .

So very precious, as was this . . .

My Brother's Faith, shall forever so wave . . .

My Brothers life, one of such so sure selfless sacrifice . . .

All in his amazing grace . . .

My Brothers life, so very short . . . yet shines so bright!

Moments, are all we have!

To grab hearts, To Make A Difference . . . to Heaven rise!

As an Angel on The Battlefield . . .

As into the face of death Jerod, you so ran . . . and not to yield . . .

To but so save sacred life, as was your mission . . . as was his most divine light!

From dusk to dawn, as a battlefield combat medic your courage worn!

As all around you Jerod, the face of death so swarmed!

And what child may be born?

All from your love Jerod, upon battlefields of honor adorned!

That might so save the world, who now lives on . . .

And all those lives you saved, just moments from the grave . . .

And what children, all on this morning will awake?

With but the greatest gift of all, in their hearts to take!

With a Mother or Father, a Sister or Brother whose fine lives you saved . . .

Brother . . . Brother, oh how it's for you I cry!

A promise I've made, as I wipe these tears
from my eyes!
That I will live for you, each and every new
day, every sunrise!
To the fullest! All in your fine name!
And if ever I have a new son, your name will
be his . . . this one!
Brother . . . Brother . . . I am so very proud
of you!
All in what you have done . . . oh yes it's
true!
Only the good die young, as now you shine
all up in Heaven's sun!
As an Angel In The Army of our Lord, with
your new battle begun!
To watch over us, as Thy Will Be Done!
Brother . . . Brother . . .
All across Texas this night . . .
As we lay our heads down to rest, as comes
a gentle rain . . .
As upon us, are but our Lord's tears to wash
over us . . .
And so bless us, to so ease our pain!
As he cries for your most sacred sacrifice,
this rain . . .
Brother . . . Brother . . . I can not wait until
up in Heaven we meet again. . . .
And we won't have to cry anymore, all in
this pain . . .
Brother, Brother, once you so wanted to be
just like me . . .
Now, I'm the one who so wants . . . to be like
you!
Brother . . . Brother . . . Amen. . . .

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, December 9, 2010, Tuesday, December 14, 2010, and Wednesday, December 15, 2010, I was not present for twelve recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: Roll No. 626—"yea"; Roll No. 627—"yea"; Roll No. 628—"yea"; Roll No. 629—"nay"; Roll No. 630—"yea"; Roll No. 631—"yea"; Roll No. 632—"yea"; Roll No. 633—"yea"; Roll No. 634—"yea"; Roll No. 635—"nay"; Roll No. 636—"yea"; Roll No. 637—"yea."

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLLEYVILLE GARDEN CLUB

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Colleyville Garden Club. Over the last 50 years, the Colleyville Garden Club has been committed to the improvement of Colleyville's parks and gardens.

On January 11, 1961, Florence Eudaly, wife of Colleyville's first mayor, along with several other women, organized the Colleyville Garden Club. The club began by meeting in member's homes with established yearly dues of \$1.00. Since then, the Colleyville Garden Club has grown in membership and continues to support projects in the community with the underlying goals of promoting interest in all phases of gardening, horticultural education,

civic beautification, and conservation of natural resources.

The Colleyville Garden Club has spent countless hours involved in projects in the Colleyville community such as Keep Colleyville Beautiful, Arbor Day, Promenade Garden Tour, and many others. The Colleyville Garden Club has designed and installed gardens throughout the local community including the Colleyville Center, Leone Hodges Butterfly Garden at Kidsville, Colleyville City Hall, Colleyville Parks and Recreation Office, Sparger Park, and Webb House. From 2008 to 2010, the Club generously donated two bronze sculptures and three Lyman Whitaker wind sculptures to McPherson Park.

On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the Colleyville Garden Club for its 50 years of service in the Colleyville community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Mr. RADANOVICH and Mr. CARDOZA to extend our sincerest congratulations to California State University, Fresno as they celebrate their centennial anniversary.

As Fresno State celebrates its 100th anniversary, the university is "Powering the New California" in our rapidly changing region as we move forward in the 21st Century. California State University, Fresno, also known as Fresno State, has evolved from its founding as a teachers college to become a renowned center for higher learning in the Central Valley with eight schools and colleges serving over twenty thousand students.

Fresno State was originally founded as Fresno State Normal School on September 11, 1911 under the guidance of its first president Mr. Charles L. McLane. In 1921, Fresno State Normal School changed its name to Fresno State Teachers College and began to share a campus with another fine local institution, Fresno City College, to provide a quality education to local students for whom the distance of universities such as the University of California and Stanford University was too great a hardship. Fresno State Normal School would change its name again to Fresno State College in 1934, and in 1949 the first advanced degrees in English and Education were granted. Forty-five years after Fresno State first opened its doors, it relocated to its present location on Shaw and Cedar Avenues in 1956, where it currently sits on over three hundred acres of land. In 1961, Fresno State College became the charter institution of the California State University System and would officially become known as California State University, Fresno in 1972.

Today, Fresno State enrolls more than 21,500 undergraduate students and 4,400 graduate students and offers Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees. In 2011, Fresno State will graduate its 100th class with an anticipated 5,500 students graduating from the institution. Notable among the academic pro-

grams at Fresno State, the Sid Craig School of Business has been nationally recognized by the Princeton Review as a "Top Business School," the Jordan College of Agricultural Science and Technology oversees the only commercial winery in the country run by a university, and the Lyles College of Engineering has the only Geomatics undergraduate program in the Nation. Fresno State is also home to the Henry Madden Library, which with over one million books is the largest academic library between Sacramento and Los Angeles, and serves as a learning resource for the entire region. It is programs and institutions such as these that truly embody the excellence of Fresno State.

Fresno State has not only established itself as a leader in academics, but also in athletics; the school has gained national recognition through their various sports programs such as football, baseball and soccer. For instance, in 1998, Fresno State's women's softball team won the NCAA Women's College World Series by defeating the defending two-time former champions, the University of Arizona. Additionally, a decade later, the Fresno State men's baseball team climbed their way through the College World Series as the lowest ranked seed in post-season play to capture the 2008 NCAA title in a shocking defeat of the University of Georgia. Fresno State's distinguished alumni include Mayor of Fresno, California Ashley Swearingin, three-time Olympic Gold Medalist Laura Berg, former NASA Astronaut and Mission Commander of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* Colonel Rick Husband, U.S. Ambassador to Colombia and Honduras Phillip V. Sanchez, former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Paul H. O'Neill, former Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn, and 2001 Super Bowl winning quarterback Trent Dilfer.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. CARDOZA and myself, in recognizing California State University, Fresno as they celebrate their centennial anniversary and continue their outstanding educational leadership for students throughout the Central Valley and the State of California.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTING GIRLS BY PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE ACT OF 2010

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act of 2010.

This bill is a measure that represents the best of American foreign policy. It addresses an abuse that I think all of us agree should not happen in the 21st century.

Girls should have the chance to enjoy their childhood in the peace and security of their own families—not be married off to the highest bidder, or anyone else for that matter.

And, research shows that this is not just about girls—while the vast majority of those trapped in child marriage are girls, boys too are among the victims.

This is a moral issue. By passing this bill, we have a chance to state clearly and on the record that child marriage is a human rights abuse.

But, this is not only a moral issue—it is also about improving health, reducing maternal mortality, slowing the spread of HIV/AIDS and reducing poverty.

Study after study has shown that when we do these things, we not only help create a safer world for women and children, but we also help improve the security of the United States.

It is true that there may be some very minor costs associated with this bill. However, they pale in comparison to our obligation to do what is right.

I want to thank my colleague from Minnesota BETTY MCCOLLUM and Senator DICK DURBIN from Illinois for leading this effort. Both of them have been indefatigable champions of the rights of women and children and we wouldn't be considering this bill today without them.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act.

HONORING GAIL NEAL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Gail Neal upon her retirement as the Mariposa County Chief Probation Officer.

Ms. Neal began her career with Mariposa County as clerk II for the District Attorney's office in April 1978. In September 1981, she transferred to the Sheriff's Office, where she was a dispatcher and then a jail officer. In November 1987, Ms. Neal transferred back to the District Attorney's office, where she served as a Clerk III for a short time before being promoted to legal secretary. Ms. Neal began in Probation as a probation aide in May 1989. From there, she received a number of promotions: to Acting Deputy Probation Officer in September of 1990, Deputy Probation Officer in January of 1991, Deputy Probation Officer II in January of 1993, Deputy Probation Officer III in May of 1995, Deputy Chief Probation Officer in January of 2001, Interim Chief Probation Officer in March of 2001 and Chief Probation Officer two weeks later in March of 2001.

Ms. Neal has displayed outstanding leadership, organization and commitment in her time with Mariposa County Probation. Her duties included planning, organizing, directing, supervising and administering activities and operations of the County Probation Department and Juvenile Hall. She also developed and oversaw the Revenue & Recovery Division.

Besides her commitments to Mariposa County Probation, Ms. Neal served as a member of a number of groups, including of the Chief Probation Officers of California, California Probation, Parole and Corrections Association, American Probation and Parole Association, Mariposa County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Mariposa County Alcohol & Drug Advisory Board, and was Chair on Mariposa County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council. In her free time, Ms. Neal also ran a side business as a candle maker.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gail Neal for her dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join

me in wishing Ms. Neal many years of continued success.

RESTORE ONLINE SHOPPERS' CONFIDENCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3386, the Restore Online Shoppers' Confidence Act, bipartisan legislation critical to protecting online consumers in Ohio and across the country.

Online shopping is becoming a common and critical part of our Nation's economy. The convenience of shopping and making purchases from home is an exciting revolution in commerce, and one that has broadened the opportunities and access available to American consumers.

As we saw on Cyber Monday, Americans are not hesitating to take advantage.

In particular, for people like my constituents who live in rural areas, online shopping offers an opportunity to avoid lengthy trips, saving both time and the cost of gas.

However, as the number of consumers taking advantage of these new opportunities continues to grow, I fear that the number of pitfalls for consumers is beginning to grow.

In particular, I am concerned about a growing new trend that is putting consumers on the defensive. Companies are using misleading Web sites and offers to sign up unsuspecting consumers for expensive subscription services. These companies are engaging in a new practice called post-transaction marketing, in which they purport to make special offers to consumers who have just completed a transaction.

Before they know it, consumers have unknowingly signed up for services, and their credit card information is on the way to the new company. Oftentimes, these same consumers don't even realize they have signed up for the service until they get their credit card statements.

This practice is egregious, and it is flat wrong.

We must act to bring it to a stop.

While I, like many of my moderate colleagues, fear the consequences of extending the reach of government too far into the economy, I also believe that there is a time when we, as legislators, have a mandate to act. This is one of those occasions.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 5707, the Restore Online Shoppers' Confidence Act. This legislation would take initial steps toward ending what is clearly a deceptive and troubling practice.

Specifically, the legislation would require that companies engaging in post-transaction marketing clearly disclose the terms of any agreement proposed to consumers, ensuring that they have full knowledge of the services for which they are subscribing.

In addition, it would also require that these same companies provide easy ways to opt out of any agreement or subscription service, empowering consumers to control their enrollment.

Recently, the Senate passed companion legislation, S. 3386 by unanimous consent.

This bipartisan show of support indicates just how serious the problem is facing American consumers, as well as the common-sense nature of the legislation before us.

Now, the time has come for the House to act in kind.

We have before us a choice today—act on behalf of our constituents who every day use the internet for information and commerce.

Or, we can fail to act, and allow more American consumers to fall victim to a frightening practice that separates from them their hard-earned income.

I would be remiss if I didn't also raise a point that I have raised a number of times during my time in the House. The internet is an exciting and powerful tool. In particular, high-speed internet has brought a wealth of exciting new opportunities to American consumers.

However, not all consumers have access to this basic tool. Too many of my constituents do not have access to reliable and affordable broadband service, taking away their ability to participate in online shopping, distance learning, and all the basic services that many of us take for granted.

I hope that this body will continue to take seriously the plight of those individuals on the other side of the digital divide, and will rise to the occasion to address a major challenge facing rural America.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICES OF CAMP PATRIOT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Camp Patriot and their tremendous service to veterans in the Greater Seattle Area and throughout the country.

Camp Patriot was founded in 2006 to help provide the 2.3 million disabled U.S. veterans with the opportunity to take outdoor trips. The nonprofit group organizes fishing, hunting, skiing, hiking, and motorcycling trips for our brave veterans. Camp Patriot enables disabled veterans the chance to develop relationships with other fellow veterans through outdoor adventures and team building exercises. The program works with outdoor organizations and financial sponsors that provide equipment, supplies, and clothing, and allow veterans to attend the camp free of cost.

Camp Patriot is a relatively new organization yet has done much in their outreach to veterans and their families. One major goal they are currently working toward is the construction of a lodge on Lake Koocanusa in Montana, which would accommodate 20 disabled veterans a week at no charge to the veterans.

Among Camp Patriot's major activities is the annual hike to the summit of Mount Rainier. The inaugural climb took place in July 2007. Most recently, the Camp Patriot team reached the 14,411-foot summit on July 14, 2010. Each year, before the climb, participants travel to Seattle to dine at Qwest Field and tour the stadium with the Seattle Seahawks. Participants also attend a week-long training sponsored by Iron90 Workplace Wellness. Iron90 prepares the veterans for the grueling hike up

the summit. Founder Micah Clark, a fellow veteran, often accompanies the hikers on the climb and sees first-hand the effect his organization can have on disabled veterans.

The Greater Seattle community has been very supportive of Camp Patriot's mission in the area. Joint Base Lewis-McChord volunteers moved to help put up tents and prepare food for the participants. They also participate in fishing and hunting trips, assisting Camp Patriot veterans on the way. Additionally, Washington State organizations have helped provide services and materials to help the nonprofit and its participating veterans.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in honoring Camp Patriot for their commitment to provide for disabled veterans who have given so much for our safety.

RECOGNIZING THE PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD LIBRARY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Patchogue-Medford Library for earning the prestigious National Medal for Museum and Library Service. This award recognizes the Patchogue-Medford Library for its commitment to making a difference in the lives of individuals, families, and its community and serves as our Nation's highest honor for libraries and museums.

The Patchogue-Medford Library enjoys a long and colorful history, having served the people of Suffolk County for nearly 130 years. Originally housed in the back room of Floyd Overton's shoe store on East Main Street, the library was formed under the direction of the Patchogue Library Association in June, 1883. The library opened its doors just two months later in August, 1883, housing 635 volumes that included the likes of Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, Jules Verne, and Alexis De Tocqueville.

Following brief stints in a music store and the Lyceum Community Center, the library was adopted in 1899 by Sorosis, an all-purpose women's organization new to the Patchogue neighborhood, with the intention of transforming the private library into a public facility. Sorosis greatly enhanced the library, raising enough funds and community support for the construction of a permanent home in 1908.

Aided by the financial backing of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, the library earned acclaim across New York State. Today, the Patchogue-Medford Library serves as the sole New York State-designated Central Library for Suffolk County, providing support and innovative services to the people of the First Congressional District of New York.

Throughout all of the changes, growth, and iterations of the Patchogue-Medford Library, the goal of universal literacy has remained at the forefront of the library's agenda. Serving a diverse community, of which nearly one-quarter of the population is Hispanic, the library has taken a non-traditional approach toward literacy in the community.

The library is committed to bringing quality programming to both English-speaking and

Spanish-speaking communities, often combining the two groups for mutually beneficial learning experiences. Children are often exposed to bilingual story times, teens engage with each other in the Language Café, and Spanish language computer instructions are offered to more than 2,100 adult students. The Patchogue-Medford Library demonstrates that literacy is important in all its forms, from reading books to reading one another.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Patchogue-Medford Library for receiving the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, and I commend the library for its continued commitment to providing vital services to the people of the First Congressional District of New York.

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR ROBERT SUMMERS' RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cornell Law School Professor Robert S. Summers, whose tireless dedication to his students and intense passion for the law are worthy of recognition.

Professor Summers grew up on his family's farm in rural Oregon. There, his parents imbued in him a strong work ethic, which he credits for his extensive career of publication and scholarship. He went from driving tractors and school buses to studies at the University of Oregon, and Harvard Law. He has spent the last 50 years as a law professor, 42 of them at Cornell Law School. December 1, 2010 was his final class.

Professor Summers has been an unwavering advocate for his students. He ardently supported increased minority enrollment within law schools, and saw this goal through to fruition, traveling the country holding recruiting and preparatory sessions.

Professor Summers demanded analytical excellence in the classroom. He taught using the traditional Socratic Method, forcing students to learn through argument and questioning, instead of simply providing them with the answers. I was a student in Professor Summers's Contract Law class for first year students, and the class was a formative experience for me. Being called upon to answer questions from Professor Summers was rewarding and challenging and it helped make me the person I am today.

In addition to his laudable career in education, Professor Summers has also made significant contributions to the field of law. He co-authored the Universal Commercial Code, outlining procedures for numerous commercial transactions, and was also called upon by the governments of Russia, Egypt, and Rwanda to help draft their civil codes. He is simply the type of lawyer that many law students aspire to be when they first enter school, but that very few become.

Madam Speaker, Professor Summers' commitment to the legal education of the nation's law students and service to the field of law merit recognition. I am sure Professor Summers will embody the same honor and morality in his retirement as he did throughout his distinguished career.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES L. OBERSTAR

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this is a very sad day for the U.S. House of Representatives as we say goodbye to Washington's true transportation guru, Chairman JAMES OBERSTAR. Your expertise and long history in developing transportation policy for our nation will be sorely missed as we continue to fight for the type of infrastructure funding that will keep our nation going strong.

You've guided the committee with wisdom and fairness. Continued the committee's longstanding bipartisanship, and steered major pieces of legislation affecting every sector of our transportation system. Your leadership will long be felt on this committee and throughout the nation long after you depart the chairman's seat.

The trips we took to Haiti were some of my most memorable times serving in Congress. Traveling there with Chairman OBERSTAR was like spending time with a native.

It was an honor working with you on so many issues over the years and I look forward to continuing to work with you as you remain a major player in transportation policy. Thank you Mr. OBERSTAR for all you have done.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD BREITMEYER IN RECOGNITION OF HIS EXEMPLARY PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, who has provided exemplary public service for over 25 years.

Dr. Richard Breitmeyer has served as the California State Veterinarian at the California Department of Food and Agriculture since 1993—rising to this position through a series of senior appointments at CDFA since 1988. He has also served at the United States Department of Agriculture in Ames, Indiana and Plum Island, New York. Before joining the CDFA in 1984, Breitmeyer was in private veterinary practice.

Throughout his professional career, Dr. Breitmeyer has been a member of both the California and American Veterinary Medical Associations. He also served as president of the U.S. Animal Health Association since 2009 and was co-chair of the USDA Secretary's Advisory Committee for Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases.

In 2001, USDA Secretary Ann Veneman asked California to loan Dr. Breitmeyer to the USDA to provide leadership in addressing the very real possibility that Foot and Mouth Disease might migrate from the United Kingdom to the United States. It is a testament to Breitmeyer's leadership that this virulent and devastating livestock disease did not enter the

United States. Due to this work, the USDA presented Dr. Breitmeyer with the Honor Award in 2002.

Dr. Breitmeyer also led the effort in California to develop animal health emergency response planning with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services—an effort put to the test during the successful eradication of exotic Newcastle disease from Southern California in 2003.

Dr. Richard Breitmeyer is loved and respected by his wife and family, by the team that worked for him at CDFA, and by all those who have interacted with him during his professional life. I am grateful that since his retirement on September 30, 2010, Dr. Breitmeyer has joined the staff at the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory at the University of California, Davis, to continue his outreach activities for livestock and poultry health.

I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Dr. Richard Breitmeyer upon his retirement, and applaud him for his dedication to California.

HONORING REVEREND BRUCE
HENNING DAVIDSON

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Reverend Bruce Henning Davidson, Director of the Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry of New Jersey, who is retiring January 1, 2011. The Office of Governmental Ministry is an advocacy ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and communicates the official policies and actions of the church to leaders in state government, particularly on issues of hunger and poverty, and more recently, immigration reform, detention practices, refugee issues and marriage equality.

Reverend Davidson is recognized statewide as an inspiring pastor, an energetic community activist, and as an advocate for justice for all people. Since becoming Director of the Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry of New Jersey, Reverend Davidson has been a tireless laborer in the vineyard of social service. He founded the New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness and the Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey and a number of other community service organizations.

Heeding the biblical command to feed, clothe and shelter the poor and needy, Bruce Davidson made it his business to search out ways for people in need to have an opportunity for a better life. He recognized that the homeless are often people with bad luck—lack of a job, a sick child and no health insurance, a lack of education, or a traumatizing war experience can cause a person to become homeless and this can happen to any of us. He believes that no one should be homeless in America and inspires us to join in the fight against the poverty and indifference that allows this to happen.

Bruce Davidson was born on March 10, 1948 to David E. and Anne H. Davidson. He is a graduate of the Philadelphia school system and Temple University and was ordained following his graduation from the Lutheran

Theological Seminary in 1974. He has spent his entire career in New Jersey, ministering to congregations from Cape May in Southern New Jersey to Bergen County in the north.

Wherever he has lived and preached, Bruce Davidson has made an impact, as evidenced by the many organizations that have honored him for his leadership in the community. He received the Equal Justice Award from Legal Services of New Jersey and was recognized by New Jersey Citizen Action and the Bergen County Chapter of NAACP. He was chosen a Distinguished Alumnus by the Community College of Philadelphia.

I have known Bruce Davidson for many years and my admiration for his life's work has no bounds. He is an unselfish and humble man who inspires the best in all of us. He deserves a happy and healthy retirement, with much time to spend with his long-time partner, Donald Barb, and a bit of leisure. But it is hard to think that he will not continue his advocacy for the unfortunate. Please join with me in recognizing Pastor Bruce Davidson and thanking him for a life of service.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY
(DRA)

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Delta Regional Authority, DRA, on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. Ten years ago, President Clinton signed into law legislation establishing the DRA. He did so with the widespread bipartisan support of Members of Congress who were eager to give this region a strong foothold up the ladder to success.

The DRA has proven to be effective in leveling the playing field for the Delta region. The DRA helps connect opportunity with the sheer grit, intelligence, and willpower that already exists in the people of the region. For ten years, DRA has made great strides in bridging the gaps that have kept the region isolated from progress.

The DRA is a federal-state partnership that serves 252 counties and parishes in parts of Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Missouri. These counties and parishes hold great promise for access and trade in bordering the world's greatest transportation arterial—the Mississippi River.

It has been a privilege for me to work alongside DRA and the people of the Delta region over the years. The educators, healthcare providers, farmers, local officials, small business owners and workers in this part of the country have all made meaningful contributions to overcome unique challenges and make the Delta region a wonderful place to live and work.

The people of the Delta region are fortunate to have a reliable federal partner in the DRA. In its first ten years of work, the DRA has made significant progress tackling the region's unique challenges. For example, the DRA operates a highly successful grant program in each of the eight states it serves, allowing cities and counties to leverage money from other federal agencies and private investors.

An independent report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service found that per capita income grew more rapidly in counties where the DRA had the greatest investment. Anyone who knows what it is like to live and work in an area without the most basic infrastructure systems will understand how important the DRA work is to bring critical infrastructure such as new water and sewer services to more than 43,000 families.

I look forward to working with the DRA as it continues to expand its regional initiatives in the areas of health care, transportation, leadership training and information technology, small business development and entrepreneurship, and alternative energy jobs. I am proud to recognize the DRA's first ten years of achievements, and I look forward to working with the DRA to build an even stronger region for our future.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTING
GIRLS BY PREVENTING CHILD
MARRIAGE ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 987, the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act. I'd like to thank Congresswoman McCOLLUM and Senator DURBIN for introducing this legislation and for their longstanding leadership on this issue.

Child marriage is a true tragedy, as well as a serious human rights violation. Sixty million girls worldwide, some as young as eight years old, have been forced into early marriage. Child brides have little, if any, control over their lives, their bodies, and their futures. Not only do girls forced into early marriage lose the opportunity to attend school and develop as children, they also face serious health consequences and substantially higher rates of domestic violence.

Girls who are married at a young age are also typically forced into early sexual activity, but their bodies are not physically suited for giving birth. According to the International Center for Research on Women, pregnancy is the leading cause of death worldwide for girls aged 15–19.

Child marriage is often linked to a lack of education, opportunity, and resources. Girls from poor households are far more likely to be given away as child brides; some families view it as a way to guarantee their daughters' future, while others see girls as an economic liability. Either way, studies have shown that girls who are married before 18 are more likely to remain poor and less likely to receive education.

We need to do much more to prevent child marriage. I am an original cosponsor of the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act, which makes preventing child marriage an international priority for the U.S. Government. This legislation requires the State Department, as part of their annual Country Reports on Human Rights, to report on countries with high rates of child marriage in their annual, and the White House to create an action plan on combating child marriage.

Mr. Speaker, by passing this legislation, we take an important step toward ending child marriage around the world, and ensuring that all girls have the opportunity to learn and grow as children. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF JOSEPH
EUGENE QUINN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. NEAL, to pay tribute to Mr. Joseph Eugene Quinn who passed away on December 3, 2010 at the age of seventy. Mr. Quinn was an extraordinary man who will long be remembered.

Joseph Eugene Quinn was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island on March 1, 1940, the third of four sons to the late Joseph L. and Mary E. Quinn. Joseph Eugene, known as Gene by friends and family, attended St. Raphael Academy in Pawtucket and excelled on the football and basketball teams. He graduated from Providence College in 1960 and maintained a life-long commitment to the intellectual and spiritual traditions of the Dominican Order.

After graduation, Gene enlisted in the United States Army. While serving in the military, he travelled extensively and befriended a wide spectrum of people who delighted in exchanging viewpoints on religion, politics and sports.

After his discharge from the Army, Gene moved to Largo, Florida where he became president of Bardmoor Country Club, a real estate and resort development. Gene later moved to Washington, DC and worked on Ronald Reagan's reelection bid in 1984. Mr. Quinn went on to hold a series of increasingly important positions with the Federal Government, and being a fond admirer of President Reagan, he took great pride later in his career when telling friends that he worked in the Ronald Reagan Building. At the time of his passing, Gene was an international trade specialist and project officer for Global Trade Programs at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Although Mr. Quinn lived in the Washington area for three decades he considered Rhode Island his home and always enjoyed spending summers there.

Mr. Quinn leaves behind his loving wife, Marguerite Slocum Quinn, to whom he was married twenty-three years. They were both founding members of the Anacostia Gracious Arts Program, an urban afterschool arts program for underprivileged youth in Washington. Gene was also a member of the Spouting Rock Beach Association in Newport, RI, the Clambake Club of Newport, the Providence College Alumni Association, and the American Ireland Fund.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Quinn is survived by his daughter, Tara, her husband Andrew Reilly, and his grandchildren, Andrew and Fiona of Middletown, RI. He is also survived by his brothers, Paul of McLean, VA, Thomas of Washington, DC, Francis of New York City, and their families.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr.

NEAL and I in remembering the life of this remarkable man as we offer our condolences to his family and celebrate his memory and service to our country.

HONORING JAMES R. BOMBARD

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my constituent, James R. Bombard of Port Jefferson, New York, for his hard work and commitment to America's veterans. Jim will retire on December 23rd after twelve years of service at the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs. Jim's many contributions and achievements over a career dedicated to public service have undoubtedly enhanced the lives of our Nation's veterans and expanded opportunities afforded to them.

During his service as an Army paratroop commander during the Vietnam War, Captain Bombard was decorated with the Silver Star and Purple Heart. Following his service, Jim continued on a path of service by advocating for future generations of servicemen and women.

In the late 1980s, Mr. Bombard served as Special Assistant to Congressman Robert J. Mrazek of New York. He worked on the American Homecoming Act of 1988, which allowed Vietnamese children, born of American fathers, to immigrate to the United States. This legislation resulted in America welcoming nearly 100,000 Asian Americans and relatives, enriching our vibrant Vietnamese-American community.

Continuing his dedication to veterans, Jim served as Chief of the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs' Bureau of Veterans Education, working to improve the "veteran friendliness" of New York institutions of higher education. As Legislative Director, two-term President, and Chief of the National Association of State Approving Agencies, Jim has enhanced the policy and curricula that promote quality education and training opportunities for veterans.

Jim's experience in state government, industry, and the halls of Congress have also informed the development and implementation of the post 9/11 GI Bill, which extended full tuition and benefits to the newest generation of American heroes.

Madam Speaker, building a career on expanding opportunity to veterans is a calling of the highest honor. James R. Bombard deserves our gratitude and recognition for his outstanding service and enduring contributions to improving the lives of America's veterans. We wish him continued success in his future endeavors as well as a long and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING JEANNE KAIDY FOR HER ACHIEVEMENT IN BEING SELECTED AS A RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeanne Kaidy, a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Ms. Kaidy has been teaching at McQuaid Jesuit High School in Rochester, NY, for twelve years, currently teaching Biology and AP Environmental Science. Ms. Kaidy serves as chair of the Science Department at the high school and an adjunct instructor at Monroe Community College in Rochester, NY. Her lessons have encouraged her students to develop skills in collecting and analyzing field data; as a result, Ms. Kaidy's students continuously achieve some of the highest marks among schools in New York State on the AP Environmental Science exam. Ms. Kaidy's commitment to the academic growth of her students and dedication to her work is deserved of this high honor.

I am proud to honor her for the outstanding achievement of this award. I hope her excellence will be an example to the whole Nation and its hard working teachers.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,879,785,054,580.12.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,241,359,308,286.32 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED
SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN
CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, while I do not intend to call for a recorded vote on this resolution, I would like to express my serious reservations about both the content of the measure before us and the circumstances under which it is being considered. Once again, we are being asked to consider a resolution about one of our Nation's most important foreign policy challenges that was rushed

to the floor without any real chance for debate, without any consideration by the committee of jurisdiction, and without any opportunity for constructive input from the many Members of this body—Democrats and Republicans—who care deeply about peace in the Middle East.

This resolution is significant not for what it says, but for what it leaves unspoken. Of course most of us believe that a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians will only be achieved through a negotiated two-state solution. And of course any unilateral action by either side—or by a third party—that undermines the peace process should be cause for concern for this Congress, and for anybody else who believes that a two-state solution is still possible.

But that is precisely the point: this resolution says absolutely nothing about the long history of unilateral actions taken by Israeli governments that have progressively undermined confidence in the ability of negotiations to deliver peace. It says nothing about the fact that formal negotiations broke down last week due in large part to Israel's refusal to extend its freeze on unilateral settlement construction for a mere three months. It says nothing about the understandable frustration felt by Israelis and Palestinians alike when they see their leaders fail yet again to make good on their promises of peace.

Moreover, we must ask ourselves whether approving this resolution at this highly sensitive moment would in fact be counterproductive to its stated goal of supporting the peace process. With negotiations on life support and the Administration working overtime to determine the best path forward for the United States, should we really be making definitive statements about what the United States might or might not do if such a unilateral declaration were actually made? Or asking the State Department to shift its focus to preventing other countries from granting diplomatic recognition, rather than continuing to focus on the peace process itself?

One would think that we should rather be urging the Obama Administration to stand firm in its efforts to bring Israeli and Palestinian leaders back to the negotiating table. The Administration was wise to abandon its offer to give Israel a generous package of security guarantees to do something that is manifestly in its own self-interest to begin with, but Secretary Clinton and Senator MITCHELL have made clear their commitment to pursuing alternative courses of action.

Instead of stirring the pot at this delicate time with pronouncements and condemnations, we should be offering hope and encouragement to their efforts.

Ultimately, I agree with the basic points made in this resolution. But I strongly urge the leadership of this House, on both sides of the aisle, to allow for a more balanced, transparent, and deliberative process next time we are asked to express the sense of Congress on a matter of such critical importance to our Nation.

IN HONOR OF JOHN BELSKI AND
HIS 23 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY
SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY AT
WAVE3 NEWS

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to mark the retirement of one of Louisville's finest meteorologists and his 23 years of service to my hometown.

Like most Louisvillians, I have trusted John Belski's dependable forecasts for the last two decades. No easy task, especially given that our community has faced ice storms, floods, and wind storms in the last two years alone. But, through it all, Louisville could count on John Belski to deliver accurate reporting with an award-winning smile.

In his tenure at WAVE 3, Belski reported on weather so unprecedented that it would make even the most seasoned professional nervous. Day in and day out, his attention to detail and calm demeanor provided reassurance and even life-saving information to thousands during the most trying of times.

His talents are not limited to just meteorology. Belski authored an internationally recognized weather folklore book, and was the 2005 World Dainty Champion—a feat achieved while broadcasting live on the air.

We in Louisville are grateful to John and will surely miss his expertise. I am proud to join all of our community in thanking him for his work and wishing him the best in the next chapter of his life.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL
MATTHEW KAMBIC

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Matthew Kambic for his service to the State of Ohio and our nation on the occasion of his retirement.

It is an honor to join the people of Ohio's 7th Congressional District in congratulating General Kambic upon his retirement as the Assistant Adjutant General for the Ohio Army National Guard for the State of Ohio.

Showing exemplary leadership, he has commanded at many levels including the detachment, troop, battalion and brigade levels. As Assistant Adjutant General for Army he worked to support Ohio's Army National Guard by overseeing the readiness of over 11,000 service members and creating administrative policies and priorities.

General Kambic has a distinguished military background. Prior to joining the Ohio National Guard, he served in the U.S. Army, 66th Armor Battalion, 2nd Armored Division for four years achieving the rank of Sergeant.

He joined the Ohio National Guard while attending Youngstown State University and was commissioned as an armor officer in 1981. In his career, General Kambic also earned his Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University.

Previous to his role as Assistant Adjutant General, he served as the Chief of Staff at

Joint Force Headquarters, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans at Joint Force Headquarters, and Commander of the 37th Armored Brigade.

General Kambic holds many awards and distinctions including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters, and the Army Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters.

For his many years of dedication to the State of Ohio and to this nation, I again join the people of Ohio's 7th Congressional District in extending our best wishes upon his retirement and wish him success in all his future endeavors.

NANCY CHEN: A FIGHTER FOR
WORKING WOMEN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Nancy Chen, who is retiring after 26 years of service. Nancy is a remarkable woman who has devoted much of her life to promoting and creating policies to help working women and to empowering women and immigrants.

Nancy led the Midwest regional office of Women's Bureau for 13 years. This is the only federal agency designated by Congress to address issues and concerns of working women. Part of the U.S. Department of Labor, its mission is to develop policies and standards to safeguard the interests of working women by advocating for their economic security and that of their families; and promoting quality work environments. Nancy directed and developed the regional program through collaboration and partnership with women's organizations, employers, unions, and other government agencies in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Under Nancy's leadership, the regional office has effectively promoted non-traditional occupations for women, including green jobs and careers in science, technology and engineering. She has helped achieve concrete advances in workplace flexibility and pay equity.

Nancy's career highlights include public and community service in Illinois and Washington, DC. Prior to joining the Women's Bureau, Nancy served as Director of Asian Pacific American Outreach at the Office of Presidential Personnel in the Clinton White House. Before that, she was Director of U.S. Senator Paul Simon's Chicago office, overseeing the Senator's legislative and constituent program relating to Chicago and northern Illinois for 6 years. As a key advisor, she played an important role in Senator Simon's achievements relating to family immigration legislation and economic development in Chicago's immigrant communities.

Nancy serves on the Board of Counselors at the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. She is also a member on the Gender Equity Advisory Committee for the Illinois State Board of Education. Nancy's community service includes being the founder and past president of the National Women's Political Caucus of Greater Chicago from 1992 to 1994; member of the Illinois Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights for over 10 years;

and co-chair of the Obama's Asian American and Pacific Islander, AAPI, National Leadership Council in 2007 and 2008.

Nancy received the 2009 Milestone Award from the Asian American Institute and the first Sandra Otaka Legacy Award from the Asian American Action Fund, Chicago Chapter. She was the recipient of the 2004 Risk Taker and Enabler Award from the Organization of Chinese Americans and the 2009 Distinguished Career Service Award from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Nancy is a skilled organizer, an expert networker, true public servant, and a good friend. Her advocacy and the policies that she helped create will continue to empower and strengthen working women even after her retirement. Her accomplishments are many, and I want to congratulate her on her decades of service to women and families.

BRIEFING ON "SAUDI ARABIA: FUELING RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION AND EXTREMISM"

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following for the RECORD:

REMARKS OF MARIA MCFARLAND, DEPUTY WASHINGTON DIRECTOR, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

In the last couple of years, Saudi King Abdullah has received praise in some circles for having taken a few cautious steps in support of religious tolerance through his Interfaith Dialogue Initiative. But that initiative has been limited to international settings.

Within Saudi Arabia, repression of religious freedom continues unabated, particularly with respect to Shia Muslims. Saudi textbooks, including those used abroad, include material that promotes hostility toward the Shia creed and other religions and may in some cases justify violence. The right of non-Muslims to worship in private is subject to the whims of the local religious police. Public worship of faiths other than Islam remains prohibited as a matter of policy.

Shia Saudis, who make up an estimated 10-15 percent of the population, are the group most affected by repression of religious freedom. Shia face systematic exclusion in employment, as well as discrimination in religious education and worship.

In some cases, this discrimination amounts to persecution. Professing Shia beliefs in private or in public may lead to arrest and detention. Saudi Shia visiting the holy shrines in Mecca and Medina regularly face harassment by the Wahhabi religious police. A government promise to update the vague law outlining religious police jurisdiction and powers has remained unfulfilled for three years.

In al-Ahsa' province, the governor, Prince Badr bin Jilawi, has repeatedly had Shia citizens arrested and detained on his authority and in violation of Saudi criminal procedure law simply for praying together in private or publicly displaying banners or slogans or wearing clothing associated with certain Shia rituals. In late January or mid-February, six young Shia of al-Ahsa', between 19 and 24 years old, were detained on Prince Badr's orders because of their peaceful exercise of their religious beliefs. As of

mid-September, they remained in detention without charge or trial despite a limit of six months for pre-trial detention under the Saudi criminal procedure code. The Saudi government has yet to take meaningful steps to stop these abuses or bring to justice those responsible.

Shia face officially sanctioned discrimination in the judicial system too. There has been no progress in affording Shia outside of the Eastern Province with courts for personal status matters to conclude marriages and adjudicate divorces, inheritances, child custody disputes, and such matters. This affects the so-called Nakhawila, Twelver Shia in Medina, and the Ismailis in Najran province as well as a small group of Zaidi Muslims in Jizan and Najran provinces. There is no separation of secular from religious law in Saudi courts, and all Shia, including in the Eastern Province where they have their own personal status courts, must follow Sunni law as interpreted in Saudi Arabia. Shia are sometimes not allowed to testify in court.

Saudi officials who engage in anti-Shia speech rarely face any reprimand for doing so. For example, on December 31, 2009, Shaikh Muhammad al-Arifi, the government-paid imam of the Buradi mosque in Riyadh, as well as Salih bin Humaid, Saudi chief judge, visited frontline troops in southern Saudi Arabia fighting Yemeni Huthi rebels, who belong to a branch of Shiism, albeit different from that of most Saudi Shia. Al-Arifi can be seen in photos wearing camouflage, firing weapons, and preaching to soldiers. Press reports said al-Arifi stressed the necessity of jihad (holy war) and commended the soldiers for performing their national and religious duty. Upon returning to Riyadh, al-Arifi, in a sermon on Friday, January 1, 2010 condemned the Huthi rebels and called Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani—an Iranian living in Iraq, who is the highest religious authority for many Saudi Shia—an "obscene, irreligious atheist."

Meanwhile, Saudi authorities have taken steps to silence Shia critics. Saudi domestic intelligence agents have been holding Munir al-Jassas, a Shia who criticized state repression against the Shia online, in detention without charge for over a year. On June 22, 2008, authorities arrested Shia cleric Shaikh Tawfiq al-Amir, after he spoke out in a sermon against a May 30 statement signed by 22 prominent Saudi Wahhabi clerics, in which they called the "Shia sect an evil among the sects of the Islamic nation, and the greatest enemy and deceivers of the Sunni people." Of the 22 signatories, 11 were current government officials and 6 were former government officials.

In its annual reports on religious freedom on Saudi Arabia, the United States Department of State has consistently and accurately documented severe repression of religious freedom and systematic violations against certain groups, including especially the Shia. Yet, while the United States has for years designated Saudi Arabia as a Country of Particular Concern, it has failed to take meaningful steps to promote reform in Saudi Arabia. The United States has continually waived sanctions provided under the law, and aside from issuing the annual report, has remained mostly silent in public on the subject.

The United States has also applauded King Abdullah's Interfaith Dialogue Initiative (IDI) as evidence of greater promotion of religious tolerance. Cynical observers would see the IDI as a promotional tour of Western countries designed to soften Saudi Arabia's image of an exporter of religious hatred. Uncritical supporters of the initiative claim it as evidence that the kingdom is opening up.

Whatever its motivation, the fact remains that this initiative abroad has had no policy

repercussions at home. Saudis recognize domestic state-controlled media reporting on the IDI as an official campaign, and it only serves to highlight the stark contrasts between ideals upheld abroad and the harsh reality of repression at home. If the United States is serious about promoting religious tolerance in Saudi Arabia, it cannot remain content to publish a report once a year about religious repression or to praise Saudi Arabia for symbolic commitments to religious tolerance. Instead, it must take a clear, public stance on Saudi Arabia's systematic repression of religion and press the Saudi government to undertake effective institutional reforms to end discrimination and repression on the basis of religion in that country.

REMARKS OF MANSOUR AL-HADJ, EDITOR,
AAFAQ

At the outset, I would like to say that my paper is based on my personal experience as someone who was born and grew up in Saudi Arabia, and has always been concerned about Saudi Arabia—since it's my homeland and also since I have been monitoring the Saudi media closely for the last four years as co-founder of the liberal Arabic-language website Aafaq, of which I am currently editor-in-chief.

There is great conflict and tension between liberals and conservatives in Saudi Arabia—but it is unfortunately a fake war, because both sides are working for the government—that is, the House of Saud. Both the liberals—who are actively writing articles for government-owned newspapers or appearing on government-owned TV channels—and the conservatives—who are active in mosques and on websites and who are also appearing on government-owned TV channels—are well aware of their limits and of the red lines that they must not cross.

The one red line that neither conservatives nor liberals dare to cross is talking or writing anything about political reform or the rights of religious minorities. Those who refuse to follow these limits are banned from writing in Saudi newspapers, and many of them are imprisoned and/or prohibited from leaving the country.

Saudi liberals are very hesitant to question the illegal arrest and persecution of reformers. One such case, that went completely unreported in Saudi Arabia, is that of Hadi Al-Mutif, an Ismaili Shi'ite who has been imprisoned since 1993, serving what is by now the longest prison sentence ever in Saudi Arabia for insulting the Prophet Muhammad. Also, not a single Saudi newspaper reported on the arrest of Mokhlif Al-Shammari, a Saudi human rights activist accused of annoying others for posting online articles criticizing radical sheikhs who call for the eradication of the Shi'ites.

Saudi liberals have never advocated for the reformers who openly demand political and constitutional reform—such as Ali Aldumaini, Matrook Al-Faleh, and Abdallah Al-Hamid, who are officially banned from writing in Saudi newspapers and from traveling outside the country. The liberals do not dare to question the brutal punishments of beheading, amputation and flogging carried out by the Saudi authorities. They avoid writing about the plight of the Shi'a minorities whose mosques are repeatedly shut down and whose imams are arrested for conducting prayers in their homes. They never dare to call for a new and modern interpretation of the Koran, never dare to advocate for gays' and lesbians' right to not be punished or even killed for something they could not choose. All of these issues are on the other side of the red line that they cannot cross.

Last month, Saudi women's rights activist Wajeha al-Huwaider was interviewed by the LBC (Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation)

"No Censorship" show, with airing scheduled for October 2010. However, the show has not yet aired. Observers said that a high-level Saudi official ordered LBC not to broadcast Wajeha's interview, in which she talked about women's right to drive cars in Saudi Arabia, the plight of the Shi'a minorities in the country, the male guardian system, and the unjust punishment of Saudi reformers. Wajeha is banned from writing in Saudi newspapers.

Last week, the Saudi daily Al-Jazirah refused to publish an article by female university professor Fawziyah Abdallah Abu Khaled. In her article, Abu Khaled called the government to allow those who oppose its policies to be part of society and for it to stop persecuting and criminalizing them. She wrote: "Peaceful opposition is part of the social power of any society, and it should not be handled with hostility, eradication, or constant persecution."

The only people who enjoy freedom of expression are the radicals—as long as they do not call for Jihad against the House of Saud. Sheikh Abdel Rahman Al-Barak has called many times for the killing of Shi'ites and many Saudi liberals, and issued a new fatwa stating that the U.S. is the real enemy of the Muslims and that Jihad cannot be superseded by international conventions.

You might ask, what about the launch of the Saudi national dialogue, the establishment of King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, the appointment of the first female vice minister for women's education, the municipal election, the interfaith conferences organized by the Saudi government to which Christians and Jews were invited, and the recent ruling restricting the right to issue fatwas to senior religious leaders.

The national dialogue has accomplished nothing; the new university is a closed and isolated institution for international students and a very few Saudis that is aimed at producing Saudi engineers and doctors, not at encouraging unfettered research, and certainly not to produce new and modern interpretations of the Koran that are peaceful and that respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This university is one of dozens of Islamic universities in Saudi Arabia. The appointment of Noura Al-Fayz as the first female member of the Saudi Arabia Council of Ministers means nothing—she still cannot drive a car, travel by herself, go jogging or engage in other sports, choose her own husband, or receive decent child support if she divorces. Regarding the election, we all know that women were not allowed to vote; and the interfaith conferences will remain meaningless until a church is built in Saudi Arabia and Christians are allowed to worship freely. As to the restriction on fatwas, no one pays any attention at all; new fatwas are issued on a daily basis.

The House of Saud has used its oil wealth to control people's lives. Whether conservative or liberal, ultimately people need to put food on the table, and as long as almost everything in the kingdom is controlled by the government, it will be very difficult to both cross red lines and make a living. That is how the House of Saud maintains its game of balance.

I understand this on a very personal level; I have seen how people struggle to swim upstream under totalitarian regimes. What I cannot understand, however, is how a country like the U.S. that has always championed human rights and religious freedom has been unable to free a young man who has been imprisoned for 17 years because of his religious belief as an Isma'ili Shi'ite. I can only hope that the House of Saud is not aiming to play the game of balance internationally—because I have heard that a \$60 billion arms deal is in the works.

REMARKS OF NINA SHEA, DIRECTOR, HUDSON INSTITUTE'S CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Last Sunday, a December 2009 cable that was cited by the New York Times but has not yet been posted by Wikileaks says that Saudi donors remain the chief financiers of Sunni militant groups such as Al Qaeda.

America's top financial-counterterrorism official, Treasury Undersecretary Stuart Levey, believes there's a strong link between education and support for terror. As he wrote in the Washington Post last June, to end support for such terror, among other steps: "we must focus on educational reform in key locations to ensure that intolerance has no place in curricula and textbooks. . . . [U]nless the next generation of children is taught to reject violent extremism, we will forever be faced with the challenge of disrupting the next group of terrorist facilitators and supporters."

Saudi Arabia is one such "key location." The kingdom is not just any country with problematic textbooks. As the controlling authority of the two holiest shrines of Islam, Saudi Arabia is able to disseminate its religious materials among the millions of Muslims making the hajj to Mecca each year. Such teachings can, in this context, make a great impression. In addition, Saudi textbooks are also posted on the Saudi Education Ministry's website and are shipped and distributed free by a vast Sunni infrastructure established with Saudi oil wealth to many Muslim schools, mosques and libraries throughout the world. In his book *The Looming Tower*, Lawrence Wright asserts that while Saudis constitute only 1 percent of the world's Muslims, they pay "90 percent of the expenses of the entire faith, overriding other traditions of Islam." Others estimate that, on an annual basis, Saudi Arabia spends three times as much in exporting its Wahhabi ideology as did the Soviets in propagating Communism during the height of the Cold War. From the Netherlands and Bosnia, to Algeria and Tunisia, to Pakistan and Afghanistan, and to Somalia and Nigeria, nationals of these countries have reported that over the past twenty to thirty years local Islamic traditions are being transformed and radicalized under intensifying Saudi influence. The late President of Indonesia Abdurrahman Wahid wrote that Wahhabism was making inroads even in his famously tolerant nation of Indonesia.

To understand why Jim Woolsey and other terrorism experts call Wahhabism as it spreads through the Islamic diaspora "kindling for Usama Bin Laden's match," it is important to know the content of Saudi textbooks. They teach, along with many other noxious lessons, that Jews and Christians are "enemies," and they dogmatically instruct that that it is permissible, even obligatory, to kill various groups of "unbelievers"—apostates (which includes Muslim moderates who reject Saudi Wahhabi doctrine), polytheists (which can include Shias and Sufis, as well as Christians, Hindus, and Buddhists), Jews, and adulterers. The texts also teach that the "punishment for homosexuality is death" and discusses that this can be done by immolation by fire, stoning or throwing the accused from a high place.

Under the Saudi Education Ministry's method of rote learning, these teachings amount to indoctrination, starting in first grade and continuing through high school, where militant jihad on behalf of "truth" has for years been taught as a sacred duty. The "lesson goals" of one of the text books is to have the children list the "reprehensible" qualities of Jewish people and another, that Jews are pigs and apes.

Reformist Muslims can also be labeled as "apostates," and thus they can be killed

with impunity. In the opening fatwa of a Saudi government booklet distributed to educate Muslim immigrants in 2005 by the Saudi embassy in the United States, the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia (a cabinet level government post) responded to a question about a Muslim preacher in a European mosque who said "declaring Jews and Christians infidels is not allowed." The Grand Mufti accused the unnamed European cleric of apostasy: "He who casts doubts about their infidelity leaves no doubt about his own infidelity."

The intellectual pioneer of takfiri doctrine is the medieval Islamic scholar Ibn Tamiyya. He is cited as a moral guide in the Saudi textbooks—including in the newly edited, heavily redacted texts used in the Islamic Saudi Academy, a school operated in Fairfax County, VA, by the Saudi embassy. Students of Saudi high school textbooks are instructed to consult his writings when they face vexing moral questions. West Point's Center for Combating Terror found that Ibn Tamiyya's are "by far the most popular texts for modern jihadis."

Saudi foreign-affairs officials and ambassadors do not dispute the need for education reform. Their reactions, though, have alternated over the years between insisting that reforms had already been made and stalling for time by stating that the reforms would take several years more to complete, maybe banking on the hope that American attention would drift.

Four years ago, the Saudis gave a solemn and specific promise to the United States. Its terms were described in a letter from the U.S. assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs to Sen. Jon Kyl, then chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security: "In July of 2006, the Saudi Government confirmed to us its policy to undertake a program of textbook reform to eliminate all passages that disparage or promote hatred toward any religion or religious groups." Furthermore, the State Department letter reported that this pledge would be fulfilled "in time for the start of the 2008 school year."

Saudi Arabia has failed to keep its promise to the United States. One Wikileak cable from the U.S. embassy reports that Saudi education reform seems "glacial." In its newly released 2010 annual report on religious freedom, the State Department itself asserted, albeit with diplomatic understatement, with respect to Saudi Ministry of Education textbooks: "Despite government revisions to elementary and secondary education textbooks, they retained language intolerant of other religious traditions, especially Jewish, Christian, and Shi'a beliefs, including commands to hate infidels and kill apostates." (emphasis added.)

Meanwhile, Saudi royals have stepped up their philanthropy to higher education around the world, for which they have garnered many encomiums and awards. Hardly a month goes by without a news report that one of the princes is endowing a new center of Islamic and Arabic studies, or a business or scientific department, at a foreign university. The king himself recently founded a new university for advanced science and technology inside Saudi Arabia.

These efforts have bought the royal family much good will, but they should not distract our political leaders from the central concern of the Saudi 1-12 religious curriculum. This is not the time for heaping unqualified praise on the aging monarch for promoting "knowledge-based education," "extending the hand of friendship to people of other faiths," promoting "principles of moderation tolerance, and mutual respect," and the like (phrases with which our diplomatic statements on Saudi Arabia are replete).

The State Department needs to begin regular and detail reporting on the remaining objectionable and violent passages in Saudi government textbooks and to press in a sustained manner for the kingdom to keep its 2006 pledge to us regarding textbook reform. As USCIRF recommends, the administration should also lift the indefinite waiver of any action pursuant to the designation of Saudi Arabia as a "Country of Particular Concern" under the International Religious Freedom Act—the only "CPC" to receive an indefinite waiver.

In one of the Wikileaks cables written earlier this year on Saudi King Abdullah to Secretary Clinton, U.S. Ambassador James Smith makes the following observation: "Reflecting his Bedouin roots, he judges his counterparts on the basis of character, honesty, and trust. He expects commitments to be respected and sees actions, not words, as the true test of commitment. . . ."

Bedouin or not, we should start demanding the same from him.

REMARKS BY R. JAMES WOOLSEY, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

I met on several occasions with the late President of Indonesia, Abdurrahman Wahid, after his Presidency but while he was leading the world's largest libertarian Muslim organization, Nandlatul Ulama. What a truly magnificent man he was. Nandlatul Ulama's members, as is the case for the vast majority of Indonesia's Muslims, espouse essentially the Enlightenment's embrace of reason and in particular its separation of the spiritual and secular realms. Indonesia's traditions in this regard harken back hundreds of years, and this country that contains more Muslims than any other does not call itself a Muslim nation.

There are hundreds of millions of such truly moderate Muslims in the world, including a very substantial share of those in the U.S. They should be regarded as our colleagues and friends in trying to build a peaceful and prosperous modern world. To use a very rough analogy to the Cold War years, such truly moderate Muslims are something like the Social Democrats and Democratic Socialists—George Orwell, Helmut Schmidt—who were our colleagues in winning the Cold War against a communist empire that called itself "socialist" but whose essence was totalitarian.

Of course terrorists, whether Muslim or not, are not our colleagues and friends but our enemies through and through, just as were the communists' instruments of violence such as the Spetznaz. But some have come to believe that in the world of Islam today these two groupings—moderate Muslims and terrorists—are the only ones that exist. Sadly such is not the case.

During the Cold War there were non-violent totalitarians—such as many members of the American Communist Party—who fervently worked for the triumph of communism and the establishment of a dictatorship of the proletariat but utilizing non-violent means. So also today there are some Muslim groups and individuals who work hard to replace our Constitution with the totalitarian socio-political doctrine that Islam calls shariah. Shariah has as its objective the establishment of a world-wide caliphate—a theocratic totalitarian state. Along the way to this objective adherence to shariah entails accepting a set of doctrines that calls for: death to apostates and homosexuals, brutal treatment of women, rejection of democracy (and indeed all man-made law), anti-semitism, and much else.

In order to bring about the caliphate—the complete rejection of Article VI of the Constitution—it is not always tactically wise to

utilize violence, or violent jihad. Sometimes what Muslim Brotherhood writers call "civilization jihad" is a shrewder tactic. It is well-defined in a document, "An Explanatory Memorandum: On the General Strategic Goal for the Group" entered into evidence in the 2008 case, *United States v. Holy Land Foundation*. The document was written by Mohammed Akram, a senior Hams leader in the U.S. and a member of the Board of Directors of the Muslim Brotherhood in North America. The document makes it clear that what is involved is a "settlement process" lead by the Muslim Brotherhood that constitutes a "grand jihad in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within and 'sabotaging' its miserable house by their hands and the hands of the believers so that it is eliminated. . . ."

In the Holy Land Foundation case, which dealt with terrorist financing, it was established that a number of Muslim Brotherhood organizations such as CAIR and ISNA, though not indicted, were part of the terror-financing conspiracy.

In short, as during the Cold War, we need to understand that the central distinction is between those who accept democracy and the rule of (man-made) law and those who do not. We were on the same side during the Cold War as socialists George Orwell and Helmut Schmidt and both the Red Army and Gus Hall were on the other. Today we can make common cause with all Muslims who are neither planning to blow up airliners nor working on "eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within."

But we must not ignore those who are making such efforts or be deterred from dealing with them just because they engage in name-calling, such as labeling those who call them to account as "Islamophobes." Those who bravely stood up against the Spanish Inquisition—whether Muslims, Jews, or Christians—were not "Christianophobes." We need to find Constitutional means—drawings on our experiences during the Cold War—to thwart the Islamist sabotage called for by the Muslim Brotherhood document and to do so in such a way as to protect the rights of those Muslims who are not engaged in either violent jihad or "civilization jihad" against us.

This will require us to think clearly about how to deal with Saudi Arabia, our ally on some aspects of fighting terrorism, but also the principal source of funding of a major share of the terrorists who attack us and the teaching of hatred that fuels the civilization jihad as well.

Above all, we cannot begin to deal with these issues unless we speak clearly. It is time to end the euphemisms and the verbal dancing. One is not accusing all Christians of burning women at the stake if one examines how the Salem witch trials grew out of some Puritan thinking. So too with totalitarian offshoots of any religion, including Islamism. Islamists' efforts to establish a caliphate and sabotage our Constitution have to be called what they are—they are not random acts of "violent extremists." They are, for Islamists, jihad. And they must be defeated.

standing young man, Joshua Matthew Levine, one of my constituents who lived in North Haven, NY. Josh, who was only 35 years old, was a much beloved and well-known advocate for organic farming and healthy living. He left a successful job in New York City to move to the Hamptons where he became involved in the burgeoning organic farming movement that has recently attracted so many talented young people across our nation. He began as a volunteer at Quail Hill Farm in Amagansett, a stewardship project of the Peconic Land Trust, a non-profit land preservation organization. Quail Hill is one of the original CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farms in the United States and serves 200 families as well as supplies food to local restaurants, schools and food pantries. After working a year as a volunteer at the 30-acre farm, he became an apprentice and then was hired as the farm's marketing manager. He also operated the organization's weekly Saturday Farmer's Market.

Along with his wife Susan Ann Jones Levine, he threw himself wholeheartedly into the business of promoting healthy food and healthy living and he would go out of his way to explain the benefits of sustainable agriculture and organic farming to others. He was devoted to his wife and their two children, three-year-old Willa and six-month-old Ezra. At a time when many think of the Hamptons as the land of glitz and glamour, it is refreshing to encounter a young person of such substance with an unwavering dedication to values that make our world a better place—cooperation, hard work and respect for the earth we live on. Josh Levine truly lived his beliefs. He was devoted to the idea of sustaining the land for future generations. On days when the Farmer's Market was open, he would arise at 5 a.m. and go to the farm to get the food and deliver it to the market in time for the opening at 9 a.m. More than 600 people attended his funeral and told stories about how hard he worked and how much he did to help others understand the benefits of healthy living.

One woman recalled how she inadvertently left a large bunch of kale that she had purchased at the farm stand one Saturday. Josh knew that she needed the kale to help in her fight against cancer, and he spent three hours tracking her down after the farm stand had closed and successfully delivered the kale to her freshly packed on ice so that it would not wilt in the sweltering August heat. He believed in what he was doing, and his passion and enthusiasm attracted others. He enjoyed cooking and was an avid follower of the slow food movement. As a tribute to his good works, the mayor ordered the flag to be flown at half mast on the day of his funeral, a tribute usually reserved for military personnel.

It is with great sadness that I mark the passing of such a vibrant young man, so involved in his community and devoted to his beliefs.

HONORING JOSHUA MATTHEW
LEVINE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to mark the untimely passing of an out-

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL
GREGORY WAYT

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Gregory Wayt for

his service to the State of Ohio and our nation on the occasion of his retirement.

It is an honor to join the people of Ohio's 7th Congressional District in congratulating General Wayt upon his retirement as Adjutant General for the State of Ohio. Serving as Adjutant General since 2004, General Wayt commanded the Ohio National Guard and was responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operation and management of the readiness, fiscal, personnel, equipment, and real property resources of the Guard.

The Ohio National Guard consists of the Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Air National Guard, Ohio Military Reserve, and Ohio Naval Militia, totaling more than 17,000 personnel.

A 1975 alumnus of The Ohio State University, General Wayt is a Distinguished Military graduate of the university's Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He then served on active duty as an Air Defense Artillery Officer with the U.S. Army until joining the Ohio Army National Guard in 1980.

As a member of the Ohio Army National Guard, General Wayt has commanded and has held staff officer assignments at all levels. Prior to serving as Ohio's Adjutant General, he served as the Commander for the 145th Regiment and the Ohio Regional Training Institute.

He also served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Operations, Training, and Military Support and as the Joint Chief of Staff for the Joint Force Headquarters for the Ohio National Guard.

General Wayt has led a distinguished career and holds many awards including the Legion of Merit with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and One Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Commendation Medal with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters.

Ohio's 7th Congressional District has been well served by General Wayt as the district includes the Springfield Air National Guard Base and the Air and Army National Guard Units located at the Rickenbacker International Airport. He has also coordinated efforts in cooperation with the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Defense Supply Center of Columbus. I personally have worked alongside General Wayt as he has been an integral part of supporting our national guard and military facilities across Ohio and our nation.

For his many years of dedication to the State of Ohio and to this nation, I again join the people of Ohio's 7th Congressional District in extending our best wishes upon his retirement and wish him success in all his future endeavors.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTING GIRLS BY PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2103, the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act. This important legislation will ensure a healthy life for young women across the globe by recognizing child marriage as a human rights violation and developing a comprehensive strategy

that will include preventive approaches to ending the harmful practice of child marriage.

Child marriage, also known as "forced marriage" is a common tradition in poor and rural communities. Poverty is a common thread in developing countries that carry this tradition of forced marriages. Limited family resources result in families offering their daughters in marriage with the hope of securing a better future and thus, escaping the trap of poverty. However, millions of girls who marry young are instead stripped of their childhood and deprived of their basic human rights as well as opportunities for education, employment and health. Moreover, they are subjected to extreme poverty, hard labor, domestic violence and maternal health risks that often ultimately lead to their death. In fact, child marriage is the leading cause of death for girls ages 15 to 19 in developing countries.

These facts are troubling and daunting. Nevertheless, we have the resources to change and eradicate this practice by supporting comprehensive policies that will advance the necessary education and health awareness that will cause these communities to question this tradition's consequences. According to the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), an estimated 60 million girls in developing countries, now ages 20 to 24, were married under the age of 18. If present trends continue, more than one hundred million more girls in developing countries will be married as children over the next decade, according to the Population Council. This is a dangerous trend that the world cannot allow to continue or endure.

It is important that the United States support these voiceless young girls and recognize child marriage as a human rights violation. This issue must be addressed, monitored, and prevented. The way of doing this is by passing this bill. I urge all of my colleagues to support vote "yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, as my service in Congress and my term as Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure come to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the professional staff of the Committee. These are the dedicated individuals who do the research, the analysis, the drafting, the corrections, the negotiations, and the leg work needed to bring legislation to the Floor of this House and get it enacted into law.

I honor them all for their diligence, tenacity, intelligence, insightfulness, loyalty, and friendship.

David Heymsfeld has served the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for 35 years, as Democratic Staff Director of our Subcommittee on Aviation from 1975 to 1995, and as Democratic Staff Director of the full Committee from 1996 to 2010. He has been the lead staff on legislative and oversight

issues in aviation, and, since 1995, has directed all staff activities of the Full Committee.

His responsibilities have required him to master the policy issues involved, to understand the positions of all interested parties and of government officials, to negotiate solutions, which achieve the Committee's policy objectives, to draft legislation, and to plan strategies for passing legislation. He has carried those responsibilities for major aviation legislation, and, since 1995, he has also played a major role in legislation affecting the Federal programs for highway and transit, rail, Coast Guard, water resources, and public buildings.

Our Director of Communications, Jim Berard, has been the voice of the Democratic side of the Committee for 13 years, and served in my personal office and that of Sen. KENT CONRAD for a decade prior. An award-winning journalist before coming to Capitol Hill, Jim has proven himself to be a master communicator, adept at interpreting complex legislative issues for lay audiences.

Jim has been at the center of nearly every major transportation issue I have faced in the past 23 years, handling inquiries from the media, getting them answers, shaping our message, and delivering that message to the public.

Jim is also an accomplished writer, a published author, an historian, and a humanitarian who spends his free time helping build homes for Habitat for Humanity in Maryland, and the St. Bernard Project in Louisiana.

He has been a trusted Member of my personal and Committee staff, and I am grateful to him for his service.

Mary Kerr's extensive communications and public policy experience, along with her legal education, have made her an invaluable member of my team for the past fifteen years. When I became Chairman in 2007, Mary moved from my personal office, where she had served as Communications Director and Legislative Assistant for eleven years, to become Press Secretary for the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. For the past four years, she has served very effectively as the principal spokesperson for four subcommittees: Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation; Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management; Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials; and Water Resources and Environment.

As T&I Committee Press Secretary, Mary has executed all phases of a comprehensive public affairs program to drive the Committee's visibility in the national news and trade media. She has led the way to successfully promote the Committee's priorities, such as protecting the Nation's waters, holding the railroad industry to the highest level of safety, and making comprehensive reforms to prevent future offshore drilling accidents.

Julie Carpenter Lotz has been a part of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff for four years, working as a Communications Assistant in the Committee's Communications Office.

Julie has been a welcome asset to the Committee and to me. In addition to her professional knowledge and abilities, she has been a great resource for me in personally providing unique information on Committee-related issues that aren't ordinarily noticed. I have found this to be a valuable service.

Julie is intelligent, hard-working and extremely competent. Her communication skills,

both written and verbal, as well as her editing abilities, are excellent.

Also, she has been eager to learn new procedures and to expand her knowledge whenever possible.

Julie has an excellent rapport with both staff members and public figures, and is respected by her colleagues for her considerate nature and helpful attitude.

Trinita Evon Brown has over twenty years of experience working for the House and has been with the Committee for seventeen years. She has served the Committee very effectively as Senior Counsel for Oversight and Investigation.

Ms. Brown is responsible for the Committee's oversight and investigations of all six Subcommittee jurisdictions. She has a proven record of accomplishment of high quality work, dedication, and public service. Her efforts have led to millions in recouped Federal tax dollars and the cessation of numerous policies and practices harmful to our nation's interests.

Trinita has served the Committee in a variety of positions, including: Counsel for Emergency Management and Counsel for Railroads. In addition, she performed superbly with Full Committee responsibilities including highways, budget and appropriations and Committee jurisdiction.

Her keen judgment and integrity have been an asset to the Committee.

Ken Kopocis has served the Committee as senior counsel conducting oversight. Ken began with the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment in 1985 and served as staff director of that Subcommittee for 13 years. Ken possesses the skills to anticipate, understand and exceed the needs of Members of Congress. He has unparalleled knowledge and experience related to protecting and improving water quality and water resources. His areas of experience include matters relating to water resources development, conservation and management; water pollution control and water infrastructure; hazardous waste cleanup; transportation; and, emergency and disaster response.

Ken has been part of every Water Resources Development Act for a generation. He has worked tirelessly to advance water quality and public health, including initiatives such as the Clean Water Act, the Oil Pollution Act, the response to the events of September 11, 2001, efforts to protect the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay and the Everglades, the Superfund program, and invasive species legislation.

Joseph Wender has worked as a Counsel for Oversight and Investigations for nearly two years. He joined the Committee in February 2009, the same month in which Congress enacted the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Joe's primary responsibilities have included coordinating the Committee's vigorous oversight of that legislation. Joe served as the lead staffer on nearly a dozen Recovery Act oversight hearings and also worked prodigiously to publish a monthly Committee Recovery Act report.

Joe always ensured that Committee Members had the most accurate and up-to-date information on Recovery Act implementation. In fact, I carry a 'pocket guide,' which Joe produced, which details the use of Recovery Act funds, including projects out to bid, under contract, and underway. I have used that pocket guide daily, and am grateful to Joe for pro-

viding such useful irrefutable information. I am proud of the standard he set in carrying out our oversight of the stimulus legislation.

During his service as counsel to the Aviation Subcommittee since February of this year, Alex Burkett has demonstrated insight and abilities as a judicious advocate, writer, and critical thinker. A pilot and lawyer with jet fuel in the veins, Alex has provided thoughtful advice steeped in deep substantive knowledge of aviation and the law. He is a tireless advocate on issues of particular significance to me, including airline competition and aviation safety.

This year Alex took the lead role in planning the Subcommittee's hearing on the United-Continental merger. In the midst of intense conference negotiations on milestone aviation legislation, Alex researched the issues presented by the merger and planned the hearing. His briefing memorandum to Members summarizing the many important issues raised by the merger was insightful and extremely well-written, as is everything he writes, and reflected his steady judgment, natural curiosity, and reliable expertise.

Michael Rodriguez joined the staff of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation as Senior Professional Staff in October 2009. As a 1979 graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, a Navy reserve officer and veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, and an experienced merchant mariner, Mike has brought a unique and valuable perspective to the Subcommittee.

Mike was an important contributor to the process that led to the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 becoming law on October 15, 2010. During the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and response, Mike helped draft legislation to address several issues related to the operation of the rig. He was able to bring his experience as a mariner to discussions about the accident with some of the Deepwater Horizon survivors. Mike's reputation throughout the U.S. maritime industry and his knowledge of international maritime affairs have made him a much appreciated asset to the Subcommittee.

Also, I would be remiss not to recognize the dedication of our Coast Guard Fellow, Lieutenant Commander Zeita Merchant. With over 13 years of Coast Guard service, she became an asset to my Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, and worked diligently on a wide range of maritime issues making significant contributions to oversight hearings and legislation.

During her short time on the staff, Lieutenant Commander Merchant made noteworthy contributions on major legislation with her expertise in marine inspections and environmental response. Her knowledge and experience were critical in drafting legislation in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the passing of the first Coast Guard Authorization legislation to become law since 2006. These efforts resulted in significant increases in the Coast Guard's Marine Safety ranks; significant strides in enhancing the Coast Guard's ability to manage complex major acquisitions; and a keen focus on enhancing the diversity and Equal Employment Opportunities with the Coast Guard.

For the last four years Michael Herman has served as the Senior Counsel for the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, with a particular focus on emergency management issues.

During this time, Mike has demonstrated an unmatched understanding of the laws, programs and history of emergency management. Mike's mastery of emergency management is reflected in H.R. 3377, the Disaster Response, Recovery, and Mitigation Act of 2009.

When disasters strike, Members of the Committee and the House as a whole, including the Speaker, rely on his knowledge, counsel, and experience. After tornadoes devastated Wadena County in my district this summer, Mike's unique knowledge and experience supported my work with the affected communities. He also worked directly with local officials helping them navigate the recovery process and understand the assistance available to them.

For the past four years, Jim Kolb served as Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit. Jim's insight and guidance has been invaluable to all Committee Members and staff on a surface transportation issues.

During his service with the Committee, Jim played a key role in the development of legislation to strengthen and improve the nation's intermodal surface transportation network. Jim managed and led the development of the Committee's comprehensive six-year authorization to transform the Federal highway, highway safety, and transit programs, as well as the Committee's response to the I-35W Bridge collapse and efforts to improve the safety and condition of the nation's highway bridges.

Throughout his service, Jim has been a hard-working, and dedicated public servant, whose advice and counsel I have valued.

Amy Scarton, Counsel to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, first joined the Committee staff as a legal intern after graduating from Duke University School of Law nearly a decade ago. Though she left us to work for Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER during the 108th Congress, and then to serve as Chief of Staff to Commissioner Frank Mulvey at the Surface Transportation Board; Amy returned to the Committee in early 2007.

In her role as the lead transit attorney for the Committee, Amy has been instrumental in developing major aspects of my surface transportation reauthorization bill, as well as several other energy and transit bills. Amy's dedication to progressive transportation policies is not only evident in her hard work; she and her husband bike daily to Capitol Hill from their home in Northwest D.C. I will greatly miss Amy's enthusiasm, loyalty, and expertise, and I thank her for her service.

In his two years as Director of Highway Policy for the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, Todd Kohr has proven himself to be an extremely capable, dedicated, and effective member of the Subcommittee's staff.

Todd joined the staff of the Subcommittee at a pivotal moment for the U.S. transportation system: during the development of my six-year bill to authorize and fundamentally transform the Federal highway and transit programs. Within this process, he drafted the majority of the bill's \$337 billion highway title—displaying an ability to advance my priorities amidst a landscape of transportation policy issues, procedural considerations, competing interest group dynamics, and the complexities of Federal highway law.

In addition to his work on the authorization bill, Todd has acted as the Subcommittee staff

lead on a broad portfolio of highway-related issues. His expertise, his attention to detail, his discretion, and his counsel have served me and the Subcommittee well.

Jackie Schmitz, Professional Staff with the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, has served on my Committee staff for five and a half years. Her dedication to public service and commitment to sound transportation policy have made her an asset to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Jackie's work has focused on promoting bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, improving highway safety, and advancing transportation research and technology. She has assisted the Members of this body in addressing the needs of their communities and has made significant contributions to the Committee's improved standards of ethics and transparency.

I am particularly proud of the work Jackie has done to advance the Safe Routes to School program, which is leaving a legacy of safety and wellness for the next generation. Her hard work is driven by her recognition that all Americans deserve transportation choices that are safe, reliable, and accessible, and I am grateful for her service to the Committee.

Peter Gould, Legislative Assistant for the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, has served the Committee for the past four years with a high level of professionalism, dedication to serving the public, and a good-natured sense of humor.

For the past two years Peter has helped me craft the Committee's message through speeches, op-eds, and floor statements, making the case for greater investment in the nation's surface transportation infrastructure as part of the transformational Surface Transportation Authorization Act. As my colleagues and I pressed for this transformational legislation, I was always confident of Peter's messaging and political acumen on presenting this issue to the American public.

Jennifer Esposito has been a key staff member of the Committee since June 2004. As Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, Jennifer led the Committee's efforts to enact historic legislation to reauthorize Amtrak and the Federal Railroad Administration's rail safety program, and to develop legislation to address rail security concerns in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks. She also led the Committee's efforts to enact the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008, which created new grant programs for development of high-speed and intercity passenger rail in the United States.

Jennifer also has developed legislation to reauthorize the Department of Transportation's pipeline and hazardous materials safety programs, and conducted extensive oversight investigations of the programs which led to major changes within the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Most recently, she conducted an oversight investigation of an Enbridge pipeline rupture in Marshall, Michigan, which unveiled major safety deficiencies.

Rachel Carr has been a staff member on the Committee on Transportation twice over the past ten years. She first served as Staff Assistant for the Subcommittees on Aviation and Railroads from March 2000 to May 2002, while earning her law degree at night. After graduating with honors from the American University Washington College of Law, Ms. Carr

continued her legal career in transportation, then rejoined the Committee in March, 2009, as Counsel on the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials.

In her current role, Ms. Carr has been involved with drafting legislation to reauthorize the Department of Transportation's hazardous materials safety program and has been an integral part in oversight of the DOT's implementation of the high-speed and intercity passenger rail and pipeline safety programs.

Joseph E. Connelly is another member of my staff serving with the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials. Though Joe has been with the staff a very short time, having served a little less than two years as Professional Staff and a Fellow from the Federal Railroad Administration, he has helped instill a culture of safety into all of the federal agencies and entities under the jurisdiction of the Committee.

Joe has contributed to the Committee by painstakingly conducting concise, thorough investigations, analyzing complex data and reducing that data into easily definable terms. The results of these investigations helped transform the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration into a science-based, data-driven Agency. For over 30 years, Joe Connelly has proudly served the American people as a member of the legislative and executive branch. He has made safety his life's work and has contributed immeasurably to the safe transportation of hazardous materials throughout the United States.

I would like to recognize Ryan C. Seiger for his 12 years of service to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, the last 4 of which he served as Staff Director and Senior Counsel. Ryan has been a thoughtful and dedicated advocate for improving the overall environmental health of the nation for future generations and for taking the steps necessary to achieve the Clean Water Act's goals of "fishable and swimmable" waters. He has a deep understanding of the challenges that remain in protecting the Nation's waters, and has served this country well in exploring innovative ways to overcome these challenges.

I also want to express my gratitude for his encyclopedic knowledge of water resource law, which served us so well in his role as lead House negotiator on the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. Thanks to his work and the work of the rest of the Subcommittee staff, Congress was able to achieve what was only the 107th successful override of a Presidential veto in the history of the nation.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I want to thank Navis Bermudez for her service as Professional Staff to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. Despite the fact that she has only been with the Subcommittee for the past year, her service to the Committee and to the Congress has been exemplary. During this year, Navis helped the Committee develop and move legislation (H.R. 3534) to address many of the legal shortcomings of the Oil Pollution Act and the Clean Water Act that were exposed by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster. Navis has also been integral in Congressional efforts to reauthorize and strengthen several of the Environmental Protection Agency's targeted watershed programs, including House passage of legislation to reauthorize the National Estuaries Program

(H.R. 4715), and efforts to reauthorize EPA's Long Island Sound and Chesapeake Bay program offices.

Navis has proven to be a strong advocate for protecting the nation's water-related environment, and has performed her job with professionalism and competence.

Madam Speaker, the people I have mentioned here are part of the Committee's professional staff. There are many others who perform administrative duties that are equally important to the work done by the Committee. I intend to recognize their contribution in a subsequent statement.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS AUSTIN G. STAGGS

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I come before the U.S. House of Representatives tonight to celebrate the life of Private First Class Austin G. Staggs. PFC Staggs answered his nation's call of duty in 2009 after graduating from North Hills Private School in Millsap, Texas near his hometown of Weatherford, Texas. On November 29, 2010 Austin made the ultimate sacrifice while serving his country and fellow servicemen in the Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan.

Private First Class Staggs was deployed to Afghanistan as part of 101st Airborne Division based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He left behind his mother and father, two brothers, two sisters, his wife Sheena Staggs and his son Kallen Staggs. His father Byram Staggs of Senoia, Georgia recalls how adamant he had been about joining the U.S. Army. It had always been his dream he says.

His family also recalled a loving young man who was adored by his siblings. His father said, "He was the most big-hearted kid you've ever met." His stepmother Kelly smiles when she talks about his Skype video calls to their house from Afghanistan. She said he was adored by his nieces and nephews so much that they would push each other out of the way to see him when he called. PFC Staggs' mother, Kaye missed his last call during the Thanksgiving holidays, but his grandmother said she saved his last voicemail so that she can listen to him say "I love you" any time she wants.

Like any soldier PFC Staggs received great satisfaction from the job that he and all fellow U.S. servicemen were doing in Afghanistan. He served his country bravely and took pride in the fact that the work he was doing every day was touching millions of lives both at home and abroad.

It pains me that fine young men such as PFC Staggs have been killed protecting the freedom of this great country. I know that no words can lessen the sorrow that Austin's family feels, but I am proud to salute such a fine son, brother, husband and father.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote on H. Res. 1761, a resolution congratulating Auburn University quarterback Cameron Newton on winning the 2010 Heisman Trophy as the most outstanding college football player in the United States.

As an original cosponsor of this legislation, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 1761.

**SENATOR PAUL SIMON WATER
FOR THE WORLD ACT OF 2009**

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight, as I have the previous two nights, in order to prod this body to act to save lives before it is too late. It is simply unconscionable that 4,100 children die every day from diarrheal diseases spread through poor sanitation and hygiene. The mortality rate for children killed by waterborne diseases is six times as large as the number of children killed by HIV/AIDS and four times as many as killed by malaria.

Melanie Nakagawa of the National Resources Defense Council has called the inter-

national water and sanitation crisis "the most poorly addressed environmental problem of our day." Indeed, nearly one billion people lack safe drinking water. According to the World Health Organization, two and a half billion people lack sufficient water sanitation facilities.

Many of us have seen the impacts of this ongoing tragedy first-hand—from the United States, to Africa, to Haiti, where people are dying every day from cholera because of a lack of access to clean water and sanitation facilities.

The gap between access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation is widening between those living in poverty and the wealthy. The former South African president, Nelson Mandela, challenged global leaders to make access to clean water a basic human right and to put water and sanitation much higher up on the political, economic and social agendas. "The absence of access to clean water" he stated "is most stark in the widespread impoverishment of the natural environment."

The U.N. agreed with Mandela at the Earth Summit, noting that water is the greatest obstacle to sustainable development and the most visible symbol of the growing gap between the rich and the poor. As the Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, "No issue has ever been more neglected than water and sanitation. And it is neglected because it is of concern mainly to the poor and powerless."

Kofi Annan, former United Nations Secretary General, stated that "access to safe drinking water and sanitation is a fundamental human need and therefore, a basic human right."

We have legislation before Congress that will address these inequities and demonstrate our government's commitment to the fundamental human right of safe and clean water.

H.R. 2030, the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2009, would give the U.S. government the tools to provide 100 million people with first-time access to clean water and sanitation.

The Senate, which has been repeatedly criticized for not addressing the hundreds of bills passed by this body during the 111th Congress, has already approved the companion to H.R. 2030. And the Senate passed that legislation on September 20, 2010 by unanimous consent.

Despite the occasional partisan differences here in Washington DC, this critical issue has support on both sides of the aisle. There are ten Republican cosponsors of the House bill and eight Republican cosponsors of the Senate bill.

Water for the World is also supported by a broad spectrum of advocates, including Water Advocates, the Natural Resources Defense Council, ONE, Mercy Corps, International Housing Coalition, CARE, and Population Services International, Millennium Water Alliance, Living Water International and Religious Water Working Group.

We are down to the wire and the time to act is now. If the 111th Congress expires without a vote on the House floor, millions of people will have to unnecessarily wait for clean water. And many lives will be unnecessarily lost. While many Americans take water for granted, one-sixth of the world's population, almost a billion people, do not have access to safe drinking water. The Water for the World Act is an important start to addressing this problem. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation before it is too late.